

## Question Drawer.

All questions for this department, like all communications for any other department of THE JOURNAL, must be authenticated with the name and address of the writer, and must be written on one side of the paper only. Questions should also be classified according to the subject, i.e., questions for the English, the Mathematical, the Scientific, and the general information departments should be written on separate slips, so that each set may be forwarded to the Editor of the particular department. If you wish prompt answers to questions, please observe these rules.

W MCK.—We are quite unable to answer your question. The Department alone can answer it with authority.

SUBSCRIBER.—A SUBSCRIBER, and others, who send us questions, must have neglected to read the above note, stating the laws of the question drawer.

## Literary Notes.

The June *Atlantic* contains instalments of the two leading serials by Mrs. Ward and Gilbert Parker, also a short story of frontier garrison life by Ellen Mackubin, entitled "Rosita." Another bit of fiction of unusual character and interest is "Through the Windows: Two Glimpses of a Man's Life." The two chapters bear the significant titles Detachment and Disenchantment. Lafcadio Hearn contributes a delightful paper entitled, "In the Twilight of the Gods," which, with Mary Stockton Hunter's poem, "A Japanese Sword Song," gives this issue a distinct flavor of the Orient. Percival Lowell continues his readable papers upon "Mars," discussing in this issue the "Water Problem," and in July, "Canals."

## Book Notices.

FOREST, LAKE, AND PRAIRIE. Twenty Years of Frontier Life in Western Canada, 1842-1862. By Rev. John McDougall. 267 pages, with 24 full-page illustrations by J. G. Laughlin. William Briggs, publisher.

This latest contribution to good literature for Canadian boys and girls cannot be too highly commended to all who are in quest of wholesome books for Public or Sunday school libraries. It is a narrative of travel and adventure in the great Canadian Northwest in the earliest days of its history. In 1860, when the adventures really begin, there was but one solitary house where now stands the city of Winnipeg, and the Hudson Bay Co.'s officials and an occasional missionary were the only white men in all that vast region north or west. Travelling was mostly by boat in summer, or by dog-trains in winter, and was at all times arduous and dangerous. There was abundance of game, however, and no lack of adventure, and to a robust, athletic youth of John McDougall's temperament and training, a life of travel and adventure on the prairie was full of excitement and fascination. The story of his adventures is told with all the glow and vividness of an ardent, youthful hunter; yet the writer never forgets that he is helping to carry out the missionary plans of his beloved missionary father, and every sign of improvement in the habits and thought of the redman is noted with approval and sympathy. "Forest, Lake, and Prairie" is thus really a contribution to our home mission literature, in which the writer has invested some phases of pioneer life with a picturesqueness and charm which must appeal powerfully to all who are interested in everything that has helped to develop the moral greatness of this Canada of ours.

## COMMERCIAL TEACHERS WANTED.

The really good commercial teacher seems just now to be very much in demand in the United States. The high schools and private academies and colleges, of which there are many thousands, are awaking to the fact that a training in the principles of commerce, economics, and finance is of equal importance in these work-a-day times with a training in science and language. By a commercial teacher is not meant simply a teacher of book-keeping, but a teacher of business in its broadest sense, which includes a comprehensive knowledge of the world's complex systems of industry and trade.

Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, is the only institution in the country having a first class normal department for the training of commercial teachers. This institution is the pride of Philadelphia and is a centre of attraction for all visitors. Its building, which cost a million dollars, the gift of Anthony J. Drexel, the great banker, is considered the most beautiful and most completely equipped educational building in the world. Nearly three thousand young men and young women are in attendance in the various departments. Many of these are from Canada. The head of the commercial normal department, who is also one of the directors of the Institute, is an ex-Ontario teacher, Mr. Seymour Eaton. Mr. Eaton attended Collingwood Collegiate Institute in 1876, and was principal of Bracebridge public school for two years. He is author of many valuable school text-books and now commands a salary equal to four times that paid to our high school principals.

We are informed by Mr. Eaton that he has located every commercial teacher who will graduate from his department this year at salaries ranging from \$750 to \$1,500, and that he could have located three times the number if he had had them. The commercial normal course can be completed and the diploma of the institute secured in one year. The entrance requirements state that the applicant must have taught at least two years and must be twenty-one years of age or over. No examination is necessary. Drexel Institute has an endowment of several millions and can afford to offer the best instruction at the lowest possible cost.

## LITERARY COMPETITION.

Three Hundred Dollars Offered in Prizes

BY THE DR. WILLIAMS MEDICINE CO. OF BROCKVILLE, ONT.

The Above Amount will be Divided Among the Writers of the Best Five Original Stories—The Competition Open to All Bona Fide Residents of Canada.

With a view to assisting in the development of literary talent in Canada, the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., of Brockville, Ont., will award prizes amounting to \$300 among the writers of the best five short original stories submitted in the competition as follows:

For the story pronounced the best, \$100 will be given.  
For the second best, \$75.  
For the third best, \$60.  
For the fourth best, \$40.  
For the fifth best, \$25.

The competition is open to residents of the Dominion of Canada, who have never won a cash prize in a story competition, and is subject to the following rules:

Each story to contain not more than three thousand words.

The writer of the story shall affix a pen name, initials, or motto to his or her manuscript, and shall send with the manuscript a sealed envelope bearing on the outside the pen name, initials, or motto attached to the story, and containing inside it the full name and address of the writer thereof.

We impose no limitations whatever as to the nature of topic written upon, and the scene of the story need not necessarily be laid in Canada, although competitors must be residents of Canada, as above stated.

Stories entered in the competition must be written on one side of the paper only, and, when possible, should be type-written.

Manuscripts to be sent flat or folded—NOT ROLLED.

All stories for competition must reach the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., on or before the first day of July, 1895, and should be marked "For Literary Competition."

Decision will be made as follows: All stories submitted will be referred to a competent committee, who will decide which are the best five stories. These stories will then be published in pamphlet form, which pamphlets will be distributed throughout the Dominion, and each will contain a voting paper upon which readers will be invited to express their preference. The story obtaining the highest number of votes will be awarded the first prize. The one obtaining the second highest number will be awarded second prize, and so on until the five prizes are awarded.

The voting will close on the first day of December, 1895, and the committee will then publish the names of the successful competitors and the order of merit.

Unsuccessful manuscripts will be returned when stamps are sent for postage.

The five stories selected are to become the absolute property of the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., with their copyright in perpetuity.

The decision of the committee and the counting of votes to be absolute and final, and all persons entering the competition agree, by doing so, to accept the decisions of the committee and the Dr. Williams Medicine Co. as final on all points whatsoever.

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Correspondence in regard to unsuccessful MSS. declined, even when stamped envelopes are sent; any stamps so sent (for any other purpose than the return of the MS. at the time of first sending) will be put in the poor box.

The Dr. Williams Medicine Co. will take all precautions to safeguard MS. entrusted to their care, but in no case do they assume any responsibility for fire, accident, or loss of unsuccessful MS. Authors are therefore advised to keep copies.

The stories must be original. Any one sending copied matter will be liable to punishment for fraud, and a prize of \$25 is offered to the first person who points out the fact that any story passed by the committee is otherwise than original, in the unlikely event of such an oversight occurring.

All stories entered in the competition must be addressed to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and marked on the envelope, "For Literary Competition."

## Teachers

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