

New Publications.

LOVELL'S ADVANCED GEOGRAPHY.

Just published by JOHN LOVELL & SON, Montreal.

Canadian Literature and Education owe more to Mr. John Lovell than to any other publisher in the Dominion. What the late Hon. John Young was to Canadian Enterprise, Commerce, and Navigation, Mr. Lovell has been to literature and education. The former gentleman saw in Canada a great country in the future, and if he did not live to see all his projects for its advancement carried into effect, at least many of them were completed in his lifetime—of which the last and greatest was the conception of the Victoria Bridge—a monument of lasting fame to his memory.

What Mr. Lovell has done for literature and education in Canada is a parallel to the biography of Mr. Young. He has devoted his lifetime and his purse to the cause, and to the encouragement and help of young authors. We can scarcely realize the value of some of his publications, because we constantly have them before us for reference; were they not in existence where could we seek for the valuable information they contain?

The "Advanced Geography," is a most accurate work and interestingly illustrated; the letter press is exceedingly clear, and the maps beautifully executed and not over crowded.

In preparing this work for the country we are aware that the best talent has been engaged, and the greatest care taken to ensure correctness.

The Educational Departments, and the public owe much to the enterprise of Mr. Lovell in publishing this excellent work, which we have no doubt will be brought into general use in every school of the Dominion where the English language is taught.

UTILIZATION OF WOOD SHAVINGS.—From wood shavings and paper Herr Heileman makes plates, dishes, etc., as follows: Selected plane shavings are bound into bundles, and steeped in a bath of weak gelatine solution about 24 hours, then dried and cut into suitable lengths. Plates are cut of strong paper or thin paste-board, of the size of the objects to be produced. These are moistened with a liquid consisting of weak gelatine solution with soda water-glass and pressed in heated metallic molds. After drying, the pressed paper objects are coated on both sides with an adhesive material made of five parts Russian-gelatine and one part thick turpentine; the shavings are applied to them and the whole is subjected to pressure. Wood shavings alone would, because of their unequal thickness, present uneven surfaces. The objects are now cut, if necessary, dried and varnished.

INSANITY A BOON.—A German physician considers insanity in the light of a boon. This is certainly a novel view. He holds that the loss of reason lands the sufferer from a sea of trouble into one of comparative calm.—often into one of decided happiness; and attempts to restore such a person to sanity would be cruel rather than kind. Moreover, he insists that without a certain amount of insanity success in life, the ordinary acceptance of the term, is quite impossible. All eminent men, he contends, are decidedly more or less mad. Many of them are dangerous monomaniacs whom it would be decided on public grounds to shut up, but who nevertheless achieve grand careers, and are credited with doing a vast amount of good. The false notion he attributes to the fact that the greater mass of mankind are also insane, and quite unable to distinguish between good and evil.

Mr. Sutton, who proposes to erect a cotton factory in London, Ont., asks the city for a bonus of \$50,000, and says that he intends to form a joint stock company with a capital of \$300,000. It is likely that the city Council will submit the proposal to the citizens.

THE BEET-ROOT INDUSTRY IN FRANCE.

It will be interesting to our agricultural readers to read the following description of the cultivation of the sugar beet at "La Briche" farm, in France, which we copy, together with illustrations, from a journal recently published on "sugar beet" by Messrs. Henry Carey Baird & Co., 810 Walnut street, Philadelphia; and we recommend all interested in the culture of beet root for manufacturing sugar to obtain this excellent work, which will give the experience of all interested in this important growing business.

"LA BRICHE" FARM AND DISTILLERY.

(See page 301.)

When the French paid one thousand millions of dollars indemnity to the German Empire after the Franco-Prussian war, it was generally thought that their financial stability would be disturbed, and that, for years to come, unknown principles of economy would necessarily be introduced; and that, notwithstanding their previous prosperity, serious changes for the worse would take place. It was predicted that no nation could survive if its treasury were called upon to pay within such a limited time gold coin to the amount above mentioned. None of these prophecies proved true, as they were based on general principles, from the local point of view of the other nations. France to-day is apparently and actually as rich as ever. Her government is at present spending millions upon its army, navy, improvements and fortifications. The late International Exhibition was considered equal, if not superior, to any previously held in that country. But whence comes the money to do this? We answer, from the farmers, who represent the true wealth of the country. The greater number of them, since the French Revolution, own some few acres of land, on which small crops are raised at modest but satisfactory profits. Whatever these profits be, only a portion is spent, as the importance of providing for the future is one of the earliest principles taught the French peasantry. If a new government loan be issued, it is bought by the masses throughout the country with the money so deservedly saved. Monopolies in the purchase of government securities do not and, perhaps, cannot exist. The farmers and populace at large have a chance, and look forward to it by waiting and sleeping days and nights at the doors of the exchange office; and when these are opened, they exchange their small gold coins for the three or four per cent. government bond. The fact of realizing a profit on a few acres of land which at the same time supply the daily needs of the owner or tenant, is beyond the comprehension of the average American tiller. On the one hand, with a soil naturally yielding comparatively little, money is saved; on the other, extraordinary crops, and frequently the rents have not been paid. The explanation of this is, that in France the most painstaking care is given the soil, and improved methods of cultivation are continually being introduced through the exertions of the government agricultural colleges located in various sections of the country. We know of no better illustration of the numerous farming changes that may be brought about, depending upon intelligence, perseverance, economy and money—and are of frequent occurrence in Europe, than the history, past and present, of the "La Briche" farm and distillery shown herewith. This farm, situated on the river Loire, and in the department of "Inde et Loire," was purchased by Mr. J. F. Cail, in 1851, for two hundred and fifty thousand francs (50,000), and was then mainly marshes with any quantity of stagnant water, rendering the entire neighborhood unhealthy. The swamps in question were divided into two parts, called respectively l'Homme and Rille. The surrounding small farms were then worthless, or nearly so, and could be bought for about forty dollars each. Mr. Cail called the farmers' attention to the fact that their land was good, but their manner of working was not what it should be. The new owner of "La Briche" farm commenced his improvements shortly after purchasing; the first operation being to uproot some twenty-five thousand trees, thus exposing the soil to the action of the heated sun-rays, air, etc. Draining the water from these swamps was no easy task, as miles of small canals had to be dug to receive the discharge from the system of drain-pipes. The total number of these of all sorts was eighty thousand, and the cost of this drainage alone amounted to \$20,000. This preparatory farming outlay would have frightened many, but it must now be said that the neighboring tillers realized its im-