

Smith and MacMurphy's Text Book in Arithmetic assigns to both rule and analysis their proper places in the study of this science. The author of the Exercises with a just estimate of his reputation, has not thought it necessary, we note, to state the exact amount of originality he has infused into his collection. It will not be out of place, however, for the reviewer to mention that in this respect as well as in others, his volume will gain by comparison with similar productions.

We are not in a position to assure teachers that the use of this collection of problems will insure the passing of their pupils at the Departmental Examinations, but we can truthfully recommend it as an excellent help to acquiring a thorough knowledge of what, apart from its examinational value, is justly held to be a very important subject. We need only add, in brief, that the work is what we should have expected from a scholar and teacher of Mr. MacMurphy's well-known ability and excellence.

THE STUDENT'S ALGEBRA, by the Right Reverend John William Colenso, D.D., Lord Bishop of Natal. Toronto: James Campbell & Son, 1879.

In former editions, part I. of Colenso's Algebra embraced the elementary rules, Equations, Progressions, &c., and the Bi-

nominal Theorem. To this has been added the Multinomial Theorem, Logarithms and the Exponential Theorem, Continued Fractions, Indeterminate Coefficients, &c.

Besides this, abbreviated methods of extracting square and cube roots, and a method of evaluating vanishing fractions have been inserted; the chapters on Quadratic Equations, Indeterminate Equations, and Progressions have been considerably extended; Inequalities have been introduced; and Permutations and Combinations, the Binomial Theorem and Notation have been more fully treated.

Oxford and Cambridge University "Local Examination Papers" with solutions or answers have also been appended, the whole forming a handy little volume of 370 pages, edited with the author's sanction, by the Rev. John Hunter, M.A.

The proofs are concise and to the point, the explanations brief, clear and full, the exercises not too numerous, yet selected with due regard to range and variety. The student is thus at once led to pin his attention on the essential facts as he proceeds, and is enabled to retain the subject as a whole in his grasp when he has finished the volume.

As a text-book for candidates for first and second-class certificates and for students preparing for University Matriculation examinations we can recommend none more suitable.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

TOPICS OF THE TIME.

THE determination of at least one house in the Canadian Book Trade to make hay while the sun shines, is having a disastrous effect upon the country booksellers, who, in various sections of the Province, are crying out against the evil of over-production in native school-book literature and the uncertainty that prevails as to what are and what are not "authorized text-books." The Brockville *Monitor* of the 3rd ult., devotes

two columns of its issue to a statement of the evils which the trade of that section suffers from in consequence of the many changes that have of late taken place in the school-books authorized for use in the province, and which entail serious loss upon the booksellers, as well as upon the parents of children attending school. But the complaint of the *Monitor* is not so much against the changes and additions in the list of authorized books made by the Minister of Education, as against the alleged unscrupu-