

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction. Gladstone.

CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND.—By S. E. Dawson, F.R.S.C. Cloth, 720 pp., 18 maps, 90 illustrations, 15s., (being Vol. I. of "Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel"). Edward Stanford, 26-27 Cockspur street, Charing Cross, London, S.W., Eng. In spite of our elaborate educational system, we are poor in comprehensive works of reference relating to Canada. Anything at all comparable to this elaborate and handsome volume has never been published here, and yet it is difficult to see how the schoolroom, the public library, or the private collection of any value, can get along without it. The reissue and enlargement of Stanford's Compendium, a standard work, has led to the volume dealing with British North America, being entrusted to Dr. S. E. Dawson, of Ottawa, a literary man of reputation, and a noted bookseller in his day, before he was appointed Queen's Printer for Canada. No better choice could have been made. Dr. Dawson's "Handbook of Canada," prepared in 1884, for the first visit to this country of the British Association, was an evidence of his ability to summarize clearly and correctly the topographical and other features of the Dominion. He has shown the same skill in the present volume, which is a complete survey of Canadian and Newfoundland geography. The folding maps, 18 in number, are recent and complete. Each Province, or division, is treated in a separate chapter, and to each chapter is prefixed a brief outline of the history of the Province, so that the work covers a great deal of important ground in a short space. To get the same information one would have to consult a number of books, not one of which is so systematically arranged and indexed as this volume. In spite of its 700 pages, the book is small and compact for hand use, and the type is large and clear. The smaller libraries will find it indispensable. The illustrations are photographic views of the most interesting scenes in Canada.

MODERN PLAYS: "The Dawn," by Emile Verhaeren; "The Storm," by Ostrovsky. Linen boards, small 4to., 120 pp. each, 2s. 6d. net each. Duckworth & Company, 3 Henrietta street, Covent Garden, London W.C., Eng. The publishers have begun to issue a series of modern dramas by illustrious European writers, and the present volumes are two of

this series. "The Dawn" is a striking tragedy of civil strife and social revolution, by M. Verhaeren, a Belgian dramatist of note, who writes in French. It is a powerful play. "The Storm" is by Ostrovsky, the Russian, who died in 1886, and whose dramas are declared to have been marked by "intense sombreness, biting humor, and merciless realism." It is said to be a perfect picture of the real Russian character, passion and home life. The edition is a pleasant one, and those who keep in touch with the best literary work of the modern stage will be pleased with the series.

THE WORKS OF SIR LEWIS MORRIS—Cloth, 655 pp., 6s., portrait. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road, London, England. This edition of the collected poems of Sir Lewis Morris, one of the most popular of modern English poets, is exactly suited to the taste of the average reader. It contains the songs of "Two Worlds," the "Epic of Hades," the "Ode of Life," "Songs Unsung," "Gycia," "Songs of Britain," "A Vision of Saints," "Songs without Notes," in fact, a very complete collection of the most famous of the poet's works. All the patriotic pieces with which we are familiar seem to be contained in the volume, including the fine jubilee ode the "Song of Empire," from which the Canadian Postmaster-General selected the line that adorns the new postage stamp:

We hold a vaster Empire than has been!
Nigh half the race of man is subject to our Queen!
Nigh half the wide wide earth is ours in fee!
And where her rule comes, all are free.

This, and many other poems, which ring with patriotic feeling, are not as familiar to Canadian readers as they might be. The high note which Lewis Morris sounds in all his poetry, the purity of thought and delicacy of style which are his characteristics are claim enough upon the affections of Canadian readers. The present edition, for popular reading, is admirable.

ANEROESTES, THE GAUL.—By Edgar Maurice Smith. Cloth, 242 pp.; \$1.50. T. Fisher Unwin, London; F. E. Grafton & Sons, Montreal. When this story appeared serially in The Canadian Magazine, it attracted attention by reason of its originality and power. Since its publication in book form, competent critics like Prof. William Clark, of Trinity College, and Sir John Bourinot, of Ottawa, have spoken of the

author's achievement in warm words of praise. Aneroestes is a strong piece of work. The measured simplicity of style, the clear and vivid reproduction of a period so early in history that we have but the vaguest conception of it, the vigor of the narrative, the rapid, yet natural, development of the action, are all evidences of literary art which at once appeal to the reader. The press is constantly turning out historical novels, but one cannot help thinking that, if you omit Scott or Thackeray, and a few others, who have the genius to create as well as to reproduce, the modern author stocks up so learnedly for his mixture of fiction and history that the reader is weary, skips the history, and hurries on with the plot. Edgar Smith has made no such error. In a few strong touches he brings out in bold relief the great exploit of Hannibal, whose army was marched by way of Spain over the Pyrenees and the Alps to attack Rome from the north. The rough soldiery, the camp life, the combats, the passions, vices, courage of the time, are faithfully portrayed. The concluding chapters rise in dramatic intensity to a high pitch, and, when Aneroestes flees the camp at night, carrying his love Durcaria, disguised as a youth, and plunges into the river, the reader draws his breath sharply and feels the power of the writing. The author has scored a distinct achievement, and the fact that he is a Canadian encourages the hope of future work of very high merit.

OUR LIVING GENERALS.—By Arthur Temple. Cloth, large imper., 16 mo., 200 pp., 3s. 6d. Andrew Melrose, 16 Pilgrim street, London, E. C., England. This is a capital book in every respect. For gift purposes, as well as educational value, it fills a place, containing as it does 12 biographical sketches of Britain's leading generals: Lord Wolseley, Lord Kitchener, Sir Donald Stewart, Sir Redvers Buller, Sir Evelyn Wood, Sir George White, Sir Baker Russell, Sir Henry Brackenbury, Sir Francis Grenfell, Sir W. F. Butler, and Sir F. Carrington. Each short biography is accompanied by a full-page photograph of the general whose career is given. The book is accurately written, and, in view of coming events, is an exceedingly timely publication.

DR. THERNE.—By H. Rider Haggard. Cloth, 253 pp., \$1.25. Longman's Colonial Library, The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto. The "novel with a purpose" has its votaries. The career of Dr. Thorne is intended as a dreadful example to doctors who would advocate anti-vaccination. Driven by poverty, by professional persecution and cruel fate into the arms of the anti-