

BOOK REVIEW.

"The Canadian Readers, Book VI.," W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto, pp. 427.

Of the making of Readers there is no end, but this one marks a beginning. Hitherto the fact had been much overlooked that reading was a vocal act and subject to the infinite shades of meaning possible to our marvelous organs of speech. The consequence is that reading has been more harmful than useful. Those who have taught elocution, if not also people who use only their unguided judgment, have noted the deep rooted habits of awkward, unnatural and meaningless reading found so nearly universally in graduates of the ordinary schools. Occasionally a school has been fortunate enough to possess a teacher who had the taste and culture to teach reading properly, in which case the "reader" has been an enjoyable and helpful book, no matter what edition it may have been.

Reading is elocution, nothing less. And elocution is a science at least well enough formulated to deserve special study, and certainly one that cannot be ignored. The reading matter is wholly separate and indeed secondary. The principles of vocal expression made habitual by systematic training together with a knowledge and mastery of the meaning of the reading matter constitute the art of "reading." Any "reader" that does not recognize this is misnamed. The book before us makes these two elements of the art its special object. The book opens with a clear and succinct explanation of elementary elocution, and accompanies every selection with very judicious information concerning the author the words and the meaning, with often suggestions as to voice and manner. Of course no two people agree on matters of taste and sentiment, but what is here given is simple, natural, and accurate, and leaves no excuse to pupil or teacher for an ignorant manner of reading.

When we add that the selections cover the entire field of our choicest literature we have said all that the most critical could desire. Nothing but good can result from the universal use of this book, or one on a similar plan. Readers that do not have such explanations of every selection, in addition to the outlines of elocution found in so many, should now be banished at once from even the humblest schoolroom.

A. A. A.

On Saturday May 14, in response to a challenge from our representatives Messrs. Courtney, Jones, Whitman and Schofield of King's College arrived on the morning express from Windsor to play a match

game of tennis. The A. A. A. men were Harding '93 and Wilson '93, against the former pair; Churchill '92 and Ross '92, against the latter. Our men played in excellent form and were too fast and steady for their opponents, Churchill and Ross winning two consecutive sets 6-1, 6-1, while Harding and Wilson closely followed with 6-2, 6-1. This is the first match played with an outside team, and now that a start has been made we hope our boys will keep it up. The A. A. A. men speak in the highest praise of their visitors who will alway be welcome at Acadia.

During the season base-ball has languished. The materials did not arrive until late and then a match could not be arranged with outside teams. Notwithstanding several class matches were indulged in which showed that there is excellent material now available. A strong nine can be put in the field the coming season.

The annual field-day was on May 14. While good work was done in all the events, the running and jumping was especially fine. As the records in the annual field sports are to be preserved, we look for McLeod to set a pace before he leaves college that will be difficult to beat. He has already done so, but as he is yet to remain here three years, we look for still further improvement. Great credit is due the executive for their efforts towards the improvements of the ground and apparatus.

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