

very salutary for disheartened or over-wearied natures. The book is plentifully sprinkled with quotations, which, though not always faultlessly rendered (in one case a well-known passage from Byron is credited to Swinburne), are yet so happily chosen as to add not a little to the charm and interest of the volume.

MR. D. H. MONTGOMERY, author of "The Leading Facts of English History," and editor of several volumes in Messrs. Ginn & Co's excellent series of "Classics for Children," has now increased our debt to him, as well as our supply of good historical text-books, by compiling and digesting from Guizot, Rambaud, Martin, Duruy, etc., "The Leading Facts of French History" (Ginn). In a volume of 321 pages, including tables, a brief bibliography, and a good index, we are presented with a vivid and interesting account of the principal events in the history of what was once Gaul and is now France. The book is conveniently arranged on the topical plan, with brief summaries at the end of each chapter, and is well supplied with maps, notes, cross-references, etc.; but we miss one prominent feature of the author's "English History," namely, the general view at the end of each period of the progress of civilization in different directions. The characteristics of the several monarchs, and of their reigns, are not brought out with the same clearness and emphasis as in the former work. Like some other historians of France, Mr. Montgomery no doubt errs in ascribing too much importance to the expectation of the end of the world in A.D. 1000. As many churches, cathedrals, and monasteries are known to have been in existence earlier than the year 1000, it is hardly sound to say: "Before this men had not dared to build for permanence, except where security made permanence a necessity." Though the maps are referred to by number, no numbers have been placed on the maps except in the case of Map 1. In his effort to represent phonetically the pronunciation of French proper names, Mr. Montgomery encourages the growth of at least one popular error. He gives English "on" as equivalent to French *an* and *en*.

IN a small volume published two years ago, Sir John Lubbock gave a series of "talks" or short essays on "The Pleasures of Life." The success of the work was very gratifying to Sir John, and has led him to prepare a second volume, which appears with the same title and from the same publishers (Macmillan & Co.). Like its companion, it sets forth, in rather an off-hand and unassuming fashion, the thoughts of its distinguished author on a variety of simple every-day subjects—such as Health, Wealth, Labor and Rest, the Troubles of Life, and the enjoyments to be derived from Art, Poetry, Music, and Nature. The closing chapters—on Religion, the Hope of Progress, and the Destiny of Man,—take a wider range; but the attempt is evidently to deal with these matters in their subjective relations, their bearings upon man's comfort and happiness in this life, rather than to grapple with the profounder problems of objective reality. The tone of the work throughout is harmlessly optimistic, and it has a hearty and cheery drift,

INSTEAD of teaching pupils composition by showing them how not to write, Professor John F. Genung of Amherst has chosen to show them how best to write. To this end he has, in his "Handbook of Rhetorical Analysis" (Ginn), provided a series of twenty-six selections, mostly from recent writers. These selections exemplify nearly all the characteristics of the best prose style, and are accompanied by many suggestive notes and questions, with references to the author's "Practical Rhetoric," which is already a standard work. The new handbook will prove valuable, and, indeed, is well-nigh indispensable, to all who use the Rhetoric.