

THE best, most thoroughly systematic, and useful Guide Books yet prepared in this country are those published in several separate volumes by the Messrs. James R. Osgood & Co., of Boston. The eighth edition of the *Handbook for New England* has just appeared. It is prepared, as all the others are, on the closest application of the method pursued in the model Guide-book of Karl Baedeker, which the condition of things in this country will permit. The compiler makes a practical rather than a geographical definition of boundaries for his book, so that the users of it may begin at the city of New York, travel along the western boundary of New England to Montreal and Quebec and the Saguenay, and find their needs met as fully as when traveling in the interior of New England. On the northeastern boundary the handbook will carry one to Frederickton, N. B., St. John River and Madawaska. The volume is up to the latest facts—e. g., the flood which swept away, in 1893, the boulder suspended in the Franconia Flume is noticed, and the extension of the railway up the Pemigewasset Valley, together with the latest trails to mountain summits. Berkshire County, Mass., is treated remarkably well, with little omission of important matter or local notes. We observe, however, that there is some confusion of the rivers on the line of the western railway. The stream from Westfield to the summit is the Westfield River, and not the Pontoosuc, while the main source of the Housatonic runs from the pond on the summit at Washington. If the author will look again at the Shepard Church, Cambridge, he will see that it is made of quarry stained and natural faced slate, and not of the Roxbury pudding stone. The historical, local, and biographical notes are everywhere brief, to the point, and compiled with scrupulous care.

—We have repeatedly noticed the previous editions of Osgood's *Guide to The White Mountains*. The edition for the present season is, of course, substantially the same as last year. It contains, however, notes of recent changes, new route, opened by the Appalachian Club, with newly added little maps of special districts which, in these localities, will prove very useful, together with many minor corrections and additions distributed through the text.

—*Taintor's Guide-Book to the Hudson River Route* is a fair specimen of the popular manual, and, though it is worth what it costs, and will be a good book to buy in a day's trip up the river and throw away at the end of it, is interesting as giving us an opportunity to point out the great and glaring defect in the maps of all such books—that they are flat and give almost no indications of the physical geography. In ascending the Hudson the names of the mountains passed is a matter of prime importance; but they are not given in these maps at all, and little more than the course of the stream and the location of towns. A comparison with Baedeker's Rhine will show what can be done by a map to give the traveler full and intelligent command of the country. Such a map of the Hudson would be a remunerative enterprise, and would increase the pleasure of travel and the volume of it.