

**CRITICAL KIT-KATS.** By Edmund Gosse. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company.

The author has accommodated these portraits of less than half length to suit limited leisure and a crowded space. By combining biography with pure criticism, he gives the life illustrated by the work and the work relieved by the life, with the purpose of adding to actual historical knowledge and something to æsthetic appreciation. In several he has brought out data never hitherto made public. The sonnets from the Portuguese receive new illumination from the circumstances of their writing; the unresting personality of Beddoes is invested with greater interest than one could gather from his poems. The recluse student and translator of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Edward Fitzgerald, is shown to be one of the most pungent, individual, and picturesque of English letter writers, and so with Walt Whitman, Tolstoi, Christina Rossetti, Walter Pater, Stevenson and others. Mr. Gosse has secured the "fine flower of these delicate spirits," and brought us nearer their uplifting influence.

**AT HAWARDEN WITH MR. GLADSTONE, and Other Transatlantic Experiences.** By William H. Rideing. Boston: Thomas Y. Crowell and Company.

The initial essay of Mr. Rideing's choice little book is such a striking piece of portraiture that one would wish to continue longer in Mr. Gladstone's company, in the peaceful retreat into which the author has given us such an alluring glimpse. The six papers that follow are vivid bits of description. The misty, poetical, poverty laden atmosphere of old Ireland, the peculiar historical flavor of the English law courts, the curious customs and usages of the House of Commons, are portrayed with vigor and telling detail. The author throws his scenes into good perspective by a background of historical and literary association.

**THE POWER OF THOUGHT: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES.** By John Douglas Sterritt. With an Introduction by J. Mark Baldwin, Professor of Psychology in Princeton University. Charles Scribner's Sons. New York: 1896. \$1.75.

This book brings together in a popular form all that is known of thought with some of the author's own ideas and conclusions. Mr. Sterritt's way of stratifying consciousness, in periods beginning with the earliest infancy, leads him to a thoroughgoing genetic method, which he seems to be the first to embody in a text book. His intuitions are, in the main, true to the progress which genetic psychology is making, and he carries out in many of its interesting bearings the doctrine (now commonly accepted) that all action is the outcome of thinking in some shape, that conduct only reveals, and cannot help revealing the progress of knowledge. The style of this book is clear and forcible, but not strained as are many of the works on Psychology. It interests and holds the attention of the reader, to the end of the 320 pages, and will be a welcome addition to the library of the young student and also to that of readers of more mature years.

**EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGE.** By Oliver J. Thatcher, Ph.D., and Ferdinand Schwill, Ph.D. With Maps and Charts. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. \$2.

The authors have admirably succeeded in their attempt "to prepare a serviceable text book for the use of the freshman and sophomore classes in the American College." They have at the same time made an excellent book of reference for the home library, a book for parents and children to turn to for the historic setting of the works of fiction or literature they may be reading.