who are surest of surviving; and of the two, he thinks Emerson the greater, because while Longfellow has "beauty and fitness of form" Emerson has "intellectual quality." We may suppose of the latter, then, that he is worth serious effort. But if we look to see what Professor Peck has to say on Emerson's intellectuality, we find only that Emerson has no system of philosophy, that he is a fountain of isolated thought, that he was a champion of intellectual freedom, that he gave supreme devotion to the doctrine of an intense individualism, and that he teaches in aphorisms. Now as these are matters that everyone is familiar with who has read a text-book of literature, we may ask how a man could proceed to a study of Emerson knowing less, and if he gained no more what could be the nature of his study? If we may judge from these "studies," Professor Peck is not a student in the ordinary sense: he is one who picks up commonplaces about people and things, and expresses them in a smart and chirpy style which furnishes his readers a moderate degree of entertainment. But the knack of using a breezy style for giving distinction to the commonplace, of saying disputable things in such a cock-sure way, is one that may be overworked; and the reader comes to feel that Professor Peck does push this dependence pretty far.

Rummages in several literatures.

It may seem a curious thing that a scholar and college professor like Mr. Harry Thurston Peck should be so prone to leave his academic labors in Latin to exhibit himself to the reading public in the guise of a student of anything else. His latest contribution to the booksellers is "Studies in Several Literatures" (Dodd, Mead & Co.). The "studies" are chiefly from English, American, and French literature, and being lightly and plausibly set forth they may serve to beguile an otherwise idle hour at a summer resort. If, however, we desire to estimate them more seriously, it will be enough to read the essay on Emerson. Emerson and Longfellow, Professor Peck thinks, are the greatest American authors, or at least the two

A guide to Shakespearian criticism.

Dr. Charles F. Johnson's "Shakespeare and his Critics" (Houghton) is a most useful book — a veritable literary Baedeker. It attempts to outline the entire field of Shakespearean criticism, both textual and literary, — British, American, and foreign. No previous work has tried to cover this wide field. The judgments of Professor Johnson upon the various critics are well considered. His own incidental comments upon the many questions that arise are penetrating and valuable, and are choicely expressed. The book is evidently the ripe fruit of many years of study and reflection. It seems strange, however, that although the work gives much space to Americans the name of Henry N. Hudson is not mentioned. In accuracy, and in some of the details of book-making, the work is faulty. Many titles are incorrect or inadequate; *e.g.*, "the Stationer's Book," "the New Shakespearean Society." That an emendation of Rowe (p. 88) and a reading of a First Quarto (p. 90) should be attributed to Pope, is perhaps pardonable. Graver mistakes are: the statement that "Lear is carried from Leicester to Dover"; the omission of "Love's Labour's Won" from Meres's list of Shakespeare's plays (1598); and the giving of the name *William* Kyd to the supposed author of the lost play of "Hamlet." On page 52 a quotation from Kipling is dreadfully mangled. A chief defect in the book is that the paragraphs cited from the critics and the many passages quoted from Shakespeare himself are not located. The latter are often cited because containing typical emendations. Since the information given by Professor Johnson in these cases is necessarily scanty, and is not always entirely

accurate, the failure to give exact references is unfortunate. In spite of its defects, the book is cordially commended as a helpful guide to the more important literature concerning Shakespeare.

Illuminating chapters on old Greek historians

To deliver the Lane Lectures for 1908, Harvard University was fortunate enough to secure Dr. J. B. Bury, Regius Professor of History in the University of Cambridge. The lecturer chose as his general theme "The Ancient Greek Historians"; and the addresses are now published in an interesting volume (Macmillan). Long ago Professor Bury established a reputation for penetrating criticism and genuine historical acumen, as well as for felicity of presentation; and all these qualities are manifest in the present work. His pen passes illuminatingly from "The Rise of Greek History" to the later historians and "The Influence of Greek on Roman Historiography." The least satisfactory pages are those dealing with Roman writers; and the lectures as printed would have been little poorer if these had been omitted. The most interesting chapters are probably the two on Thucydides, where Professor Bury is at his best. The index is adequate, and the bibliography nearly so, although the latter might have been enlarged without including negligible studies. The volume is appropriately dedicated to Mr. Gardiner M. Lane, "who founded the lectureship some years ago in the interests of humanistic study." Those of us who have followed Professor Bury's writings, and have also happened to hear him speak, must envy his auditors at Harvard as we turn these pages. The next best thing for those who are interested in the subject will be to read the book.

Civil-War times in the old South.

Mr. Thomas Cooper De Leon, prolific author and playwright, well known for his "Confederate Memories," his "Four Years in Rebel Capitals," and his "Life of General Joseph Wheeler," has produced another book of Southern souvenirs and character sketches entitled "Belles, Beaux, and Brains of the 60's" (Dillingham). Born in South Carolina, four years in the Confederate service, and now a resident of Mobile, the author is a thorough Southerner, "dyed in the wool," and his chatty and attractive volume proves it unequivocally. In his very first chapter, in a characteristic protest against Mrs. Stowe's unprepossessing picture of the slaveholder, it is pointed out that the brutality toward the negro detailed in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is all committed by a Yankee overseer. Life and society in Richmond, Washington, and elsewhere in the lower latitudes of our broad land, are recalled with many illustrative anecdotes and references to historic events and famous characters. The portraits scattered through the volume are almost beyond counting, and help to vitalize these pages from a vanished past. The book will interest especially those older readers of Southern antecedents who are fond of recalling good old times "before the war."

Leaves from the life of a Turkish lady.

"Haremlik" (Houghton) is the work of Demetra Vaka, now Mrs. Kenneth Brown, a native of Constantinople and for a long time a resident in Turkey. We are told that the book is not fiction, although the Foreword troubles the reader somewhat by confessing that "there has been some rearranging of facts." Mrs. Brown visited Constantinople again after six years in this country, and found her girl friends provided — for the most part comfortably and happily provided — with a fraction of a husband apiece. She claims to furnish an impartial account of the working of a system which, like other systems, is compounded of good and evil; but her own conclusion, both as to the merits of what she saw and the manner in which nations and individuals should be allowed to find their way to the light, is evidently expressed in her word to the Turkish "suffragettes": "Since you do not like your system, — although it seems to me admirable on the whole, — it is only right that you should be allowed to live your lives as you want to. Only, you must go about it in a sensible way, and take into consideration the others who are involved in it." Whatever may be the book's value as documentary evidence for the sociologist, — and it is probably not impersonal enough or general enough to give it a great deal of value in that direction, — it is stirringly written, and two or three little incidents of childhood companionships, in particular, are told almost as prettily as anything of the kind in literature.

The clergyman of the olden time.

From the industrious pen of the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield there has appeared a good-sized volume of clerical anecdotes and legend and history, under the attractive title, "The Old-time Parson" (E. P. Dutton & Co.). The same author issued not long ago a well-received work on "The Parish Clerk," and now deems it "only fair that the occupant of the higher tier of the 'three-decker' should share his honour." A friend of the writer placed at his disposal "a manuscript collection of clerical stories" which he had been getting together for many years. Consequently there is no lack of illustrative anecdote in the book; and as clerical wit is proverbially of good quality, the volume yields abundant entertainment. The Saxon parson and the mediæval parson have each a chapter, necessarily somewhat short, to themselves. Chaucer's "poor parson of a town" is of course presented in the poet's own descriptive verse, and "Piers Plowman" is made to furnish a pertinent passage. But the chapter on "The Parson in Literature" might easily have been extended to include more of the familiar pulpit-founders of fiction. Charlotte Brontë, for example, has pictured the country curate with a pitiless fidelity that should not be passed over. Among the witty parsons, Dr. South and Bishop Wilberforce figure conspicuously, and Robert Stephen Hawker fails not to appear among the eccentric parsons. Numerous portraits and other illustrations contribute their share of interest to the volume.

Transformations in the world of animal life.

From the facts of paleontology comes the evidence which in the last analysis most definitely and cogently attests that in the history of the living things which people the earth there has been an organic evolution or transformation. A book which marshals the data of paleontology and shows their bearing on the problems of evolution is particularly timely in the year when all over the world men are doing honor to the memory of Darwin. Such a book is M. Charles Depéret's "Transformation of the Animal World," the latest addition to the "International Scientific Series" (Appleton). In these days when the dominant trend in the investigation of evolution problems is to apply the experimental method, it is refreshing to be brought back once in a while to the literally as well as metaphorically solid evolutionary record afforded by the fossils. Broadly speaking, the aim of the present book may be said to be to show, on the basis of the paleontological data now in hand, the phyletic history of the larger groups of animals existing to-day. Doing this furnishes the occasion for discussing the probable methods through which the observed transformation of animals may be held to have occurred, and also for outlining briefly the history of opinion on these points. Occasionally the translator (F. Legge) slips up on a technical detail, but in general the style is accurate and pleasing.

An out-door book for Midsummer.

It was high time that someone wrote an out-door book for Midsummer, and the only defect in Mr. Winthrop Packard's "Wild Pastures" (Small, Maynard & Co.) is that the title does not indicate the scope and character of the work. Somewhere in his Eastern Massachusetts pasture Mr. Packard has discovered a spring of words that express, as nearly as it would seem that words can express, the magic of the "Arabian days" of June, July, and August. Here where the "cosmos of the wild has wiped out that curious chaos which we call civilization" he waylays the dawn of June mornings and "stalks" the wild grape whose fragrance makes him "dream of pipes of Pan playing in the morning of the world, while all the wonder creatures of the old Greek myths dance in rhythm and sing in soft undertones, and the riot of young life bubbles within them." Beside the pasture brook in the hot summer days he gets glimpses of the life of the rock-bass and horn-pout, and in the moonlight nights he watches the witch faces on the hazel-bushes "detach themselves from the limbs, put on their red caps and sail off across the great yellow disk" of the full moon. He watches the bluebirds and tanagers with as much interest in their moulting as he has taken in their nesting, and is acquainted with the personnel and separate instruments of the frog-pond orchestra. Through the long summer drought he sees how there is "in all the pasture people a certain puritanical sternness of demeanor, a set holding-fast to the narrowing good of life, a tightening of the muscles that are weary with a long strain but may not for the good of the soul loose their firm grip," until the first Fall rain releases them from their suffering. The book is satisfactory for not attempting too much, and accomplishing what it attempts delicately and well. A few drawings by Mr. Copeland help the reader to visualize the text.
