

lam, in his "Story of Chartres," which is perhaps the best of the series so far.

**Horton—In Argolis.** By George Horton. McClurg & Co. \$1.75.

The author of this book tells us that we are indirectly indebted for it to the President of the United States and a three-months'-old baby, the former having removed him from his consulate in Athens at a time of year when the baby was unable to cross the Atlantic. So the ex-consul, with wife, baby, and nurse, made himself a temporary home in Poros, a little town on the little island of the same name in the Gulf of Ægina, where he wrote these sketches of the life and folk-lore of the locality. They are illustrated with photographs taken by himself; but the sketches are no less graphic, with a quiet humor added that makes them most enjoyable reading.

**Perkins—French Cathedrals and Châteaux.** By Clara Crawford Perkins. In two volumes. Illustrated. Knight & Millet. \$4.00.

An industriously compiled and, in the main, accurate account of those great ecclesiastical and secular edifices which are the abiding glory of France. The author knows history and has read architecture in so far as either bear upon the subject in hand, and she has succeeded in writing a serviceable if not brilliant book. The Cathedrals of St. Denis, Notre Dame, Chartres, Laon, Rouen, Amiens, Reims, and others, and such châteaux as Pierrefonds, Amboise, Blois, Chambord, and their like are described in a vein which is both popular and instructive. The work makes little attempt to theorize or criticise, but as a narrative interpretation at second hand it has excellent features.

## TRAVEL

**Gardner—The Story of Siena and San Gimignano.** By Edmund G. Gardner. Illustrated by Helen M. James, and many reproductions from the works of painters and sculptors. Macmillan. \$3.00.

Mr. Gardner's story of Siena and its neighbor of the "Beautiful Towers" suffers not from a lack of accurate and systematic thoroughness, but from a failure to enshrine much of the spirit of things past but still fragrant and colorful. The book is over-literal; it gives the details of Siena's life, historic, civic, and æsthetic, but it creates no synthetic picture of that life, it casts no veil of beauty, endeavor or terror over a community which has known each. The book is better on the whole than Mr. Langton Douglas' boastful and sumptuous "History of Siena," and will prove a welcome addition to Mr. Dent's "Mediæval Towns." Mr. Gardner's method is historical, not sentimental, yet there are those who combine history and sentiment; witness Mr. Cecil Head-

**Triana—Down the Orinoco in a Canoe.** By Señor Pérez Triana. Crowell & Co.

A book that would attract attention as dealing with a region quite outside the ordinary range of civilized travel, even if it had not become interesting of late on account of international complications in Venezuela and Panama Canal treaties with Colombia, both of which countries are included in this voyage through the most remarkable network of navigable rivers in the world.

**Shoemaker—The Great Siberian Railway.** By Michael M. Shoemaker. Putnam. \$2.00.

A history and description of this most stupendous of railway enterprises, from the pen of a careful and trustworthy observer, who has taken all the facts and figures connected with the building of the road from official sources, and who has the happy gift of describing clearly and agreeably what he has seen with his own eyes. The book is copiously illustrated from photographs taken en route.

*For List of Books Received, see seventh page following.*