

Our Book Table.

Marine Algæ of New England and Adjacent Coasts. By W. J. Farlow, M.D. Reprinted from Report of U. S. Fish Commission for 1879.

It is an unfortunate fact that when a writer like Prof. Farlow contributes an able article on some scientific subject to a Government Report it might almost as well be buried. To the quiet, modest student—the one who would derive most advantage from it—it is almost inaccessible. In the first place it is only by chance that it will be brought to his notice, and in the second it too often happens that he is unable to procure it. We are, therefore, very glad to see that this valuable monograph has been printed separately, and as the U. S. Fish Commission is composed of men who are themselves students, we feel assured that no earnest seeker after knowledge need fail in getting it.

The object and scope of the work is best set forth in Prof. Farlow's own words. He says:

‘ This report is intended, with the exception of the Diatoms, to include all the marine species at present known to occur on the coast of the United States from New Jersey to Eastport, Me., and a few species are mentioned which, although they have not yet been found within our limits, are nevertheless to be expected from the fact that they occur on the neighboring coast of the British provinces. In preparing the report I have attempted to present, in a compact and more or less popular form, a description of the different orders and species of sea-weeds, so that persons who frequent the coast of New England, and especially those in the service of the Fish Commission, may have at hand the means of determining the forms found in our waters. The descriptive portion of the report is preceded by a short account of the general structure and classification of sea-weeds, which is necessary in the present case, because there is no generally accessible book in the English language which gives a good account of the modern views of the classification and structure of algæ.”

The use of the sea-weeds in commerce is thus tersely set forth by the author:

“ From an economical point of view, but little need be said with regard to our sea-weeds as an article of food. *Chondrus crispus*, the Irish moss, as is called in this country, is the only species of any commercial value. It is collected in considerable quantities at several localities, but especially at Hingham, Mass. It is used for making sea-moss farine, and is also employed to some extent by brewers for clarifying beer. As yet the use of *Porphyra vulgaris*, the laver, one of the common species for making soups, has not been introduced. The Chinese employed in the shoe factories at North Adams, Mass., import the same species from China, not apparently knowing that they could obtain an abundance of it in Massachusetts. The dulse, *Rhodymenia palmata*, is sold to some extent in the seaport towns.

especially in Boston, where it is eaten principally by sailors and the Irish population. It is generally imported from the British provinces, but it could be obtained in abundance anywhere north of Boston, or even in some places in Long Island Sound. The great use of our sea-weeds is for the purpose of making fertilizers, and immense quantities are carted from the beaches and spread over the land near the shore. Usage, however, varies at different localities, for at Eastport the larger sea-weeds, which are practically the same species that are highly esteemed in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, are considered of little value in comparison with animal manure. As far as I know, there are no manufactories of iodine or soda salts on our coast, although our species greatly resemble those used in Scotland for the purpose. The stem of the devil's aprons, *Laminariae*, are used by surgical-instrument makers in the manufacture of sponge-tents."

The work is illustrated by fifteen plates, the figures in which are very characteristic and beautifully drawn.

Lectures in a Workshop: By T. P. Pemberton, formerly Associate Editor of the "Technologist;" Author of "The Student's Illustrated Guide to Practical Draughting." With an appendix containing the famous papers by Whitworth "On Plane Metallic Surfaces or True Planes;" "On a Uniform System of Screw Threads;" "Address to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Glasgow;" "On Standard Decimal Measures of Length." \$1.00. New York: Industrial Publication Co.

The volume before us consists of a series of lectures and articles specially addressed to young mechanics. Several of these lectures were delivered before the Polytechnic Association of the American Institute, and were received with very great favor. The whole has been carefully revised and the unavoidable repetitions of an unconnected series having been cut out and other and more valuable points enlarged. The collection now forms a sprightly, fascinating book, full of valuable hints, interesting anecdotes and sharp sayings. It is not a compilation of dull sermons or dry mathematics, but a live, readable book. The papers by Whitworth, now first made accessible to the American reader, form the basis of our modern systems of accurate work.

The Compend of Anatomy. For Use in the Dissecting Room and in preparing for examinations. By John Roberts, A.M., M.D., Lecturer on Anatomy and on Comparative Surgery, in the Philadelphia School of Anatomy, etc., etc. Philadelphia: C. E. Roberts & Co.

This is a handy little volume, judiciously arranged and well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended.

The Medical Record Visiting List for 1882. New York: William Wood & Co.

This is a very neat and substantial list, published at a price which is little, if any, more than that of a common diary of similar quality. It contains the usual almanac and medical constants, and seems to us to be just the thing that a physician wants.

The Vision; or Hell, Purgatory and Paradise of Dante Alighieri. Translated by the Rev. Henry Francis Cary, A. M., with the life of Dante, chronological view of his age, additional notes and index. Illustrated by Gustave Doré from the last corrected London edition. In two volumes. Vol. II. New York: Carl Von Buren, 104 John St.

Some time ago we had the pleasure of examining the first volume of this book, and now the second volume, which completes the work, is before us. In these two quarto volumes we have the finest edition of Dante now accessible to the American book buyer. The paper and typography are of the best, so that it is really a pleasure to read it. As for the work itself, it has long since passed beyond the judgment and criticisms of all but specialists. Of the illustrations by Doré, however, it may be permitted to us to say a word. It has always seemed to us that of all the works suited to Doré's peculiar genius, Dante's vision justly claims pre-eminence. The curious mixture of religion and imagination; of brilliant fancies, subtle allegories and pointed teachings which the facile pencil of Doré is so well fitted to embody in the engravings, is just the combination which Dante, of all men, is fitted to draw forth. The Dante of Doré must, therefore, always hold a high place in the estimation of all students of the higher class of poetry. The only difficulty hitherto has been the very high price of the folio editions. Here, however, we have in handsome quarto form a most perfect fac-simile of the larger editions, and we predict for it a most favorable reception on the part of all lovers of art.