

including the electric light, electro-chemistry and metallurgy, electro-motors, telegraph, telephone, phonograph, etc. About half the book is given to these "practical applications." Those who are looking for a full, scientific account of electricity in its theory, history, and applications, will find it in this volume. Occasionally its explanations are technical and misty. The full index fails to lead us to the places where the various electrical units are explained, and, strangely enough, they are nowhere in the book well and clearly defined. The authors do not mention the remarkable discoveries of Henry, by which the invention of the telegraph became possible. These and some other similar oversights, however, are minor defects in a work of general excellence. It is to be regretted that the translators omitted the portraits and biographies of eminent electricians found in the original German edition.

*Lectures and Essays.* By the late W. K. Clifford. Edited by Leslie Stephen and Frederick Pollock. Second Edition. [Macmillan & Co. \$2.50.] From this second edition of Clifford's essays, two papers, "rather mathematical than philosophical," have been omitted, being included in the volume of mathematical papers published in 1882. The volume has now a unity of thought which the first edition lacked. Mr. Pollock has revised the admirable introduction, which remains one of the best biographical sketches in the language. As they now stand in this compact volume these essays are accessible to a larger public than could purchase them in the first edition, the early product of a rare philosophical genius, who, unhappily, did not live long enough to outgrow certain crudities in his speculations on morals and religion, but whose work, as a whole, no student of later scientific thought can neglect.

*A Primer of Michigan History.* Compiled by William J. Cox. [Lansing: H. R. Pattengill.] This little book has grown out of the experience of Supt. William J. Cox of Hancock, Mich., who has found the usual text-book on United States history deficient in the special history of the individual States. It is designed for the pupils of the public schools, and for private students, but will prove interesting to any one who may desire to know anything of the history and resources of Michigan. It contains an introduction and five chapters, respectively on the French Period—1634 to 1760; the English, 1760 to 1796; the Territorial, 1796 to 1837; on Michigan as a State—1837 to 1886; and A Brief Sketch of the Material Resources. A list of one hundred and fifty questions and an index complete this little book of 102 square 12mo pages.

*The Dragon, Image, and Demon; or, The Three Religions of China.* By Rev. H. C. Du Bose. [A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$2.00.] Rev. Mr. Du Bose, for fourteen years, now, a missionary representing the Southern Presbyterians at Soochow, evidently belongs neither to the number of ordinary missionaries who can see nothing good in "heathen" religions, nor to that smaller band of men, like Dr. Legge and Spence Hardy, who have studied the faiths they confronted in China and India with deep appreciation and earnest scholarship. We can recognize

much that is morally admirable in Confucianism and Buddhism, even in Taoism, but the absurdities and follies of these systems receive by far the larger share of his attention, and he does not justify his contrast to a famous poem of our day in heading a chapter, "Buddha the Night of Asia." The description of the curious manner in which the three religions just named are dovetailed in China is yet very spirited, and there is a mass of detail given about the actual working of these faiths in the China of today, quite fully illustrated, which makes his work of no small value to the student of comparative religion, while the ordinary reader will find here much entertainment and instruction.

*The Family.* An Historical and Social Study. By Chas. F. Thwing and Carrie F. B. Thwing. [Lee & Shepard. \$2.00.] Rev. Mr. Thwing and Mrs. Thwing, now of Minneapolis, have illustrated in their authorship of this work the position of entire equality in the marriage relation which they maintain. No sign appears that one deserves more credit than the other for this valuable compilation of trustworthy information concerning the history of the family in all the historic ages, and this well-proportioned exposition of its place and function in modern society. Under the head of "The Family Destroyed" the alarming statistics of divorce in the last generation are presented; to check the evil tendency to laxity, the authors advocate judicial separation for minor offences, while full divorce should be granted only "for adultery, attempt on life, very grave cruelty, and long continued desertion." In respect to property rights under marriage the anomaly of favoring the wife more than the husband is condemned, and the abolition of dower and curtesy recommended.

*Agnes Surriage.* By Edwin Lassetter Bynner. [Ticknor & Co. \$1.50.] The Agnes Surriage who figures in this story was an historical character. She was the daughter of humble fisher folk of Marblehead, and was possessed of remarkable beauty, and an intellectual range far above her condition. She was discovered by Sir Harry Frankland, who, about the middle of the eighteenth century, served as collector of the port of Boston. Frankland brought her to Boston, had her educated under the supervision of Madame Shirley, the governor's wife, and later made her his mistress. Ostracized by society, the youthful pair retired to Hopkinton—then in the "wilderness"—where Frankland built a comfortable mansion. Later, Frankland sought a diplomatic mission, and the two lived for a time in London, and afterwards in Lisbon, where they were at the time of the great earthquake, with an account of which the book concludes. This is the material employed by Mr. Bynner, and he has used it to excellent purpose. The manners and customs of those early days are admirably depicted, and all the characters are endowed with life and individuality. The author has evidently been tireless in his collection of historical data, which he has treated with romantic freedom, and yet with a fidelity to the spirit of the times not often to be found in historical romances. The account of the courtship of Elder Hawkins and the Widow Ruck, which forms a legitimate episode in the narrative, is conceived with delicious humor. Mr. Bynner has acquitted himself honorably of his task in producing a novel of very exceptional merit. But we wish that he had chosen a less objectionable theme for the exercise of his fine and discerning talent.

## MINOR NOTICES.

*Electricity in the Service of Man: A Popular and Practical Treatise on the Applications of Electricity in Modern Life.* From the German of Dr. Urbanitzky. Edited, with Copious Additions, by R. Wornen, D.Sc., with an Introduction by John Perry, M.E., F.R.S. [Cassell & Co.] A finely printed octavo of nearly 900 pages, with 850 excellent and often full-page illustrations, divided into "Principles of Electrical Science" and "Technology of Electricity," the latter comprising about three-fourths of the whole. Part Second has also two divisions, Generation and Conduction of Electricity, embracing electric machines, dynamos, batteries, etc., and Practical Applications of Electricity,