

ment, the whole work produces the effect of much good criticism wasted in a sort of literary hodge-podge. Throughout the book there are occasional lapses into an almost slangy freedom of style; but these are accompanied by many felicities of expression. The book is pleasant to read, as some diaries are, not from excellent arrangement of matter, but from the very meanderings of the subject. The bibliography is exhaustive. — A. Lovell & Co. 40c.

De Quincey's Works.

The ninth volume of Professor Masson's new edition of De Quincey's Works has on its title-page, very appropriately, a vignette of David Ricardo, for the greater part of the contents consists of De Quincey's contributions to the once dismal science, in which he acknowledged Ricardo as master. "Opinions, we believe, differ," says Professor Masson, "as to the value of some of those doctrines in Political Economy which De Quincey made it his special business to advocate, and as to his consequent title to rank among original authorities in the science; but competent judges have been unanimous in admiring his power of lucid exposition of the most difficult economic conceptions, his dialectical keenness in detecting fallacies, and the constant felicity and beauty of his illustrations." The volume also contains five political papers, two of which Professor Masson ranks among the author's best. — Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.

The Light of Asia with Notes.

A task which, when one thinks of it, one must wonder was not undertaken before, has been successfully performed by Mrs. I. L. Hauser, the author of *The Orient and its People*. She has printed Sir Edwin Arnold's *Light of Asia* with a full apparatus of notes, at the foot of the page, explanatory of the religion and the legend of the Buddha, and of the many strange terms in the poem referring to Indian manners and customs. She has not aimed at criticism but at interpretation, while her preface properly alludes to the use of Christian phraseology and the hightening of effect in which the author indulged. The present edition has been revised and enlarged, and is dated from India, where Mrs. Hauser has been more than ever impressed with Sir Edwin Arnold's powers of observation and description. To make men love mankind more, not Christianity less, is the avowed end which her scholarly annotation will certainly help on. — Rand, McNally & Co. \$1.50.

Songs of Syracuse.

It is of Syracuse, in the State of New York, that Mr. William Burt Harlow sings. His verses are unpretending local rhymes, depicting the scenery near his home, or recording the pleasures of school-days and of journeys. The little volume will hardly make its way in the great world, but will no doubt prove a pleasant souvenir to the personal friends of the author. — Syracuse: W. B. Harlow.

Aminta.

This volume is not, as the title might lead one to suppose, a new translation of the famous pastoral drama of Tasso, but a "modern life drama," by Cornelius O'Brien, D.D., the Archbishop of Halifax. The design of the poem is to show how inadequate are agnostic science and esthetics to take the place of faith as an inspiration to

MINOR NOTICES.

Johnson's Lives of the Poets.

Mrs. Alexander Napier has completed a task left unfinished by her husband, an editor of Boswell's *Life of Dr. Johnson*, in this new edition of the famous *Lives of the Most Eminent English Poets*. The text has been reprinted from the edition of 1783, which was revised by Johnson himself. In the notes his many misstatements of facts, of greater or smaller consequence, are corrected, and the missing references supplied; the quotations have been verified, wherever possible. Brief biographical and explanatory notes have also been inserted. Professor J. W. Hales furnishes an excellent introduction. Dr. Johnson was able to write: "No man could have fancied that he read 'Lycidas' with pleasure, had he not known its author," and "For the best it can only be said that they [Milton's sonnets] are not bad." Well may Professor Hales remark: "We seem to be in the midst of Philistia as we read these sentences—to be perusing some journal published at Gath, or listening to some professor with a chair at Askalon." Yet all allowances made, the *Lives of the Poets* "for us, too, is a work of great value—a work exhibiting much acuteness and vigor of mind, and that contains many suggestions of permanent use as well as much information not elsewhere preserved, and, to mention its greatest interest, a work that recalls the intellectual tone and temper of its age with a fidelity and fullness that make it of inestimable service to any one who will thoroughly study the eighteenth century. . . . It should be studied as the best extant exposition of the critical ideas current in the last century."—Scribner & Welford. Three volumes. \$4.20.

Noel's Life of Byron.

In reading any biography of Byron, one is forced to remind oneself that the writer is not responsible for the fact that the record must bear a strong resemblance to a piping-hot dish of scandal. With this premise, we find that the Hon. Roden Noel, in this volume of the "Great Writers" series, has shown insight into the beauty of much of Byron's poetry, and into the characteristics of his many-sided and ebullient nature; but, for want of methodical arrange-

life. It is a work of sincere thought, naturally including some sectarian doctrine together with much that is generally applicable. It has many poetic passages and forcible expressions. The meter is usually well enough managed; the ninety-second and ninety-third stanzas are an exception. — D. Appleton & Co. \$1.00.

A Social Departure.

This lively book of travels, dedicated with profound esteem to Mrs. Grundy, describes the adventures of "Orthodocia," a young English lady, and the narrator, a Canadian lady, a little older, in their tour around the world. They take the Canada Pacific, and, stopping over at a Winnipeg hotel, fall in with Mr. Jack Love, a cousin of Miss Orthodocia, who is to supply the hero of the romance which crops out here and there. After the unconventional pair have "done" Japan thoroughly, the Taj Mahal is the scene of Mr. Jack's reappearance. India and Egypt are described with an animation that never flags — in fact, on account of it, the book is best taken in small doses — and the conclusion is, of course, felicitous. There is a good deal of rattle in the book as a whole, but its virtues are more than its faults, if one takes it up to be amused rather than instructed. — D. Appleton & Co. \$1.75.

Philosophy of Literature.

A sixth edition of *An Essay Contributing to a Philosophy of Literature*, by Brother Azarias of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, has lately appeared, revised and enlarged. The first edition came out sixteen years ago, and was reviewed in the LITERARY WORLD with warm commendation as the work of "a man of very high culture and wide reading, opulent in illustration, incidental reflection, and criticism." We know of no work from a Roman Catholic writer on the position and tendencies of modern literature which we should, today, recommend before this to one desirous of knowing how Catholics of the educated kind are disposed toward modern thought. How completely they are biased by theological assumptions will appear if we recite two of the more surprising statements of Brother Azarias. The origin of literature dates from the fall of man, and his consequent degeneracy. Before the fall, Adam had no need of literature, owing to his intuitive and comprehensive genius. "The knowledge that men boast of today is, in its totality, but a broken fragment of that grand whole possessed in germ and principle by the primeval man." "The spirit of rationalism, fostered by the Renaissance, and fanned into a great religious flame by Martin Luther, is in its nature, tendency, and results, destructive of sound thought, inasmuch as it doubts, denies, and grows inconsistent, without adding or developing any positive idea, and thus begets illogical habits of mind." — New York: P. O'Shea. \$1.50.

Sanity and Insanity.

Dr. Charles Mercier's volume on this subject, in the "Contemporary Science" series, is an extremely fresh and vigorous attempt, not so much "to describe and enumerate, as to account for the phenomena of insanity." The essential feature that distinguishes sanity and insanity is thus stated:

"So long as a failure in the adjustment [of the organism to its environment] is due to defect in the organism or in the environment, so long it

amounts merely to a mistake; but if the failure is due to defect in the process of adjustment, then it amounts to insanity, and this is true whether the disorder is of conduct, of the simpler forms of feeling known as sensation, of the more complex forms of feeling known as emotion, or of any of the three forms of thought, perception, memory, or reasoning. . . . In every case of insanity there are present all the three factors — disorder of the highest nerve arrangements, disorder of conduct, and disorder of consciousness."

To the exposition of this doctrine Dr. Mercier devotes his treatise, dwelling mainly on the causes rather than the forms of insanity, maintaining, by the way, such positions as the insanity of everybody at some time of life and the effect of mental disease as exaggerating, instead of creating, character. Dr. Mercier will have to reckon with the professional alienists as to his fundamental thesis, but there can be no question that he has written a singularly interesting volume for the lay reader. — Scribner & Welford. \$1.25.

The Wisdom of Life.

Mr. T. Bailey Saunders, M.A., has here translated, in an admirable manner, the first part of Arthur Schopenhauer's *Aphorismen zur Lebensweisheit*, and he has prefixed to it a very thoughtful paper on the right understanding of Schopenhauer's views of life. Our human existence is full of evil, and renunciation is "the truest wisdom of life," says the great German, here agreeing with Christianity rather than with the Greek thought of self-development and enjoyment as the ends of life. He left out hope and love too much from his analysis of the human lot. But in this work pessimism has little place. Schopenhauer discusses, in a fragmentary style, what a man is, what he has, and his place in the estimation of others — in other words, his personality, his property, and his position. Brilliant and amusing, Schopenhauer faces the actual world, determined to be the victim of no illusion, and as Mr. Saunders remarks, his view is one "which must present itself, at some time, to every thoughtful person. To be outraged by Schopenhauer means to be ignorant of many of the facts of life." We trust that Mr. Saunders will continue his good work, and render into excellent English more of the minor works of the most acute of German philosophers. — Scribner & Welford. \$1.00.

In Western Levant.

The publishers of his books of travel send forth Mr. Francis C. Sessions' impressions of Spain, Tunis, and Morocco in a very dainty form, modeled upon editions of Pierre Loti and Daudet. But Mr. Sessions' literary style does not match the environment of broad margin, vignette, and artistic binding. A specially light touch and a capacity for suggesting a great deal in a few words would be the fitting accompaniments of this fair mechanical array. And these qualities are not in the author's mental make-up. He is at his best in simple description, and at his poorest in general reflections, such as this: "The position of a thoughtful American abroad is a peculiar one, and one of true privilege. Unhampered by ancient prejudices, unbiased by the severe patriotism of jealous nations, never warped in judgment by hard training in a single partisan hatred, nor suffering his opinions to receive color from the solecisms of monarchical and hierarchial forms and precedents, he surveys the whole field

with the eye of a true reasoner." This is better, indeed, than Mr. Sessions' preference, expressed in an earlier volume, for the architecture of Columbus, Ohio, over aught European; and he seems to us to have made an advance on that earlier crudity; but even yet his reasoning partakes too much of chauvinism to be very "true." — Welch, Fracker Co. \$1.25.

Girls and Women.

Topics concerning the heavens above, the earth beneath, and the waters under the earth, are on the list of subjects of the "Riverside Library for Young People." If each of the various volumes contains as much well-matured common sense as *Girls and Women*, by E. Chester, this library, when completed, will give us a cosmos popularly and properly interpreted for the young. The main and most useful guiding thread in Miss Chester's volume is its discountenancing of the crude ambitiousness so prevalent now among young people, and so distinct in its nature from a true and natural desire for real growth. This little book will help to frown down this tendency, which is productive of much pain and confusion in the world of youth. — Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 75c.

Four Great Teachers.

Mr. Joseph Forster is an English lecturer on great writers and speakers, who illustrates his subject by "dramatic readings and recitations." This volume contains lectures on Ruskin, Carlyle, Emerson, and Browning. The matter is scrappy and slight, and the biographies are mere outlines; but the few criticisms are good, and so are the selections. Those who are not familiar with the writings of these "teachers" will find the book helpful. It is tastefully made, and comes from George Allen, Sunnyside, Orpington. — Scribner & Welford. \$1.00.

Painting as a Fine Art is a handsome pamphlet, by H. J. Horn, which has a sufficiently large subject for forty pages in "an analysis of its principles, with a brief description of important works in European galleries." (J. W. Bouton.) — *The National Academy Notes*, in the ninth year of publication, gives a complete catalogue of the sixty-fourth spring exhibition of the National Academy of Design in New York, with many illustrations, and a chapter on the art attractions of the city; the editor is Charles M. Kurtz. — Cassell & Co. 50c.

Talks about a Fine Art, by Elizabeth Glover, a booklet in souvenir style, gives wise and kindly hints to women on the accomplishment of being lovely and loving at home. — T. Y. Crowell & Co. 30c.

The publication of *Alden's Manifold Cyclo-pædia*, after a pause of some length, has resumed its former pace. Volume XXI extends from Jordan to Legacy, and Volume XXII from Legal to McClure. — Garretson, Cox & Co.

Catterell Ratterell is a thin volume containing a short "doggerel" poem, which expands the old fable of "belling the cat." A learned rat who can read and has a philosophic mind, Darwin and Spencer being his favorite authors, assembles his kindred and prophesies the good effects of belling the cats. These will be forced to eat grass and turn into a species of sheep, while the rat kind will take on a lion-like stature. The sudden irruption of a cat puts an end to

this philosopher and his scheme. The volume is cleverly illustrated with drawings by Bessie Alexander Ficklen. — G. P. Putnam's Sons. 75c.

Among pamphlets of value recently received by us are: *Primitive Architecture*, by Barr Ferree, containing two articles on sociological and climatic influences, reprinted from the *American Naturalist*; *The Cradle of the Semites*, two papers by D. G. Brinton, M.D., and Morris Jastrow, Ph.D.; *Enoch Lincoln*, by the late E. H. Elwell; *Different New Testament Views of Jesus*, by Joseph Henry Crooker; and *Handcuffs for Alcoholism*, by Rev. George Zurcher, dedicated to Archbishop Ireland. *The Gipsy Queen Dream Book*, by Madame Juno, may also seem valuable to some.

Miss Katharine Pearson Woods' *Metzerott, Shoemaker*, which we reviewed at length on its appearance anonymously some months ago, has been brought out in paper covers, and we trust it will have a large circulation among all classes of readers. — T. Y. Crowell & Co. 50c.

Mrs. Margaret I. Carrington's record of the experience of an officer's wife on the plains, entitled *Ab-Sa-Ra-Ka, or Wyoming Opened*, was first published in 1868. The sixth edition comes out soon after the admission of Wyoming as a State. Col. H. B. Carrington's outline of Indian operations and conferences since 1865, the maps, and the illustrations, increase the value of this standard work in Indian literature. — J. B. Lipincott Co.

Under the title "Fact and Theory Papers," N. D. C. Hodges has issued three small books in flexible binding: *The Suppression of Consumption*, by G. W. Hambleton, M.D., advocating exercise as a preventive (40c.); *The Society and the Fad*, by Appleton Morgan, which distinguishes between the legitimate work of a Shakespeare society, for instance, and that of a coterie of admirers of Browning or Ibsen (20c.); and *Protoplasm and Life*, two essays by Charles F. Cox, M.A. — 75c.

Mr. G. H. Wilson's *Musical Year-Book of the United States*, giving "a record of music publicly performed which is compatible with a high standard," has reached its seventh year of publication. It is a valuable summary of what has been accomplished in the world of music in 1889-1890. — G. H. Wilson, 152 Tremont Street, Boston. \$1.00.

A pamphlet which should interest many today is H. B. Prindle's *Popular Treatise on the Electric Railway*, in which he describes in plain language, and with the aid of many diagrams and illustrations, the railway system which Dr. Holmes attributes to a more supernatural agency than electricity. — Boston: E. B. Stillings & Co. 50c.

The Red Mustang, one of "Harper's Young People" series, is a stirring and wholesome tale of life on the Mexican border. It is fair both to the white man and to the Indian; is full of adventure, and throughout keeps the just balance of reality or probability. — Harper & Brothers. \$1.00.

One Little Mustard Seed, by Beth Linn, is a well-told story of Miss Kate Frothingham's summer term in teaching a country school, and of the good she accomplished in a neighborhood without church privileges. She "was proposed

to by a woman;" she declined, but left a happy mark on the lives of young and old. — E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.00.