

periodical, "The Library Miscellany," of Baroda, we find in the section devoted to India (and printed in English) the following: "At the suggestion of Mr. Govindbhai H. Desai, Subah of Kadi Division, the Kadi Agriculturists' Association have organized a travelling exhibition of agricultural implements. The Library Department has coöperated by sending an assistant who delivers lectures on library topics and social and moral questions. An assistant from the Visual Instruction Branch, with a 'Kok' cinema, sets of stereoscopes and stereographs, is also deputed." Do we see here the Oriental adoption of an American idea? Another item may for more reasons than one prove interesting. "Mrs. Billious [one almost wishes the compositor had inverted the *u*], the widow of Mr. Billious, a Jew merchant of Howrah, has declared her intention of making over to the Howrah Municipality her palatial residence with about 150 bighas of beautifully laid out garden situated in the heart of the town, to be utilized as a public library. The deed of gift will take effect after her death. The property is worth five lakhs of rupees." And will the institution thus generously provided for be known as the Billious Public Library?

THE DEATH OF AN ACCOMPLISHED GREEK SCHOLAR, such as Rufus B. Richardson showed himself to be, is occasion for peculiar regret in these days of lessening regard for such scholarship. Theological studies seem to have claimed his devotion in earlier life, his academic course at Yale having been followed by three years at the Yale Divinity School and further studies of the same nature at the University of Berlin. But in 1880, at the sufficiently mature age of thirty-five, he accepted the chair of Greek at Indiana University, whence he was called to a like professorship at Dartmouth two years later. There he remained until 1893, when he was appointed Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, a post that he held for ten years. In his later retirement at Woodstock, Conn., he occupied himself chiefly with writing and study. He was the author of many periodical contributions on archæological and classical subjects, and also of the books, "Vacation Days in Greece," "Greece through the Stereoscope," and "History of Greek Sculpture." *Æschines's* "Oration against Ctesiphon" was edited by him while he was at Dartmouth. He was born at Westford, Mass., April 18, 1845, and died at Clifton Springs, N. Y., March 10, of this year.

LOCAL TALENT IN THE LIBRARY is commonly preferred to imported. It is pleasant to deal with an assistant whom one has known for years; it is sometimes embarrassing to go with one's questions and complaints to an entire stranger behind the delivery desk or in the reference room. Moreover, tax-payers like to see their money circulate among their own people, and not drained off by outsiders. Something may be read between the lines, as well as in the lines, of the announcement of the Cali-

ONE WAY TO PRAISE A POET, a cheap and obvious way, is to belittle his rivals. Censure Homer for his occasional nodding, and you thereby enhance the renown of Virgil—or imagine you do. In the closing years of the last century William Vaughn Moody and those other gifted ones with whom he associated at Cambridge decided among themselves that Tennyson lacked the spirit of true poetry; and condemnation of a poet of Tennyson's fame must carry with it a certain sense, innocent and harmless enough, to be sure, of elation and superiority in the censor. At a recent Chicago banquet of poets, the guest of honor, Mr. William Butler Yeats, took occasion to pay tribute to a brother poet, Mr. Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, in this wise: "I address Mr. Lindsay because I have read his 'General Booth Enters Heaven,' and in it I recognize the work of a brother poet. Before there can be great poetry in any country the poets must be humble and simple. The reason many of us have revolted against Tennyson is that he is too ornate. Paul Verlaine, whom I saw in my youth, told me that he could not translate Tennyson because he was too 'English'; when he should have been bowed down with grief he stopped for reminiscence. Mr. Lindsay speaks the simple language of the humble people. He is a truth-speaker." Why make invidious comparisons when it is sufficient to point out differences? There are diversities of poetic gifts, but the same spirit.

ANTIPODEAN LIBRARY ACTIVITIES acquire for us a certain peculiar interest from their very remoteness in geographical location. In the latest number that has reached us of that enterprising trilingual

ifornia Board of Library Examiners, printed in the current issue of "News Notes of California Libraries," to the effect that "for the present no examinations will be given outside the State, for many reasons: (1) Experience has shown that only persons who have lived in the State and have done library work in a way to gain personal knowledge of California conditions really understand the county free library plan for California. The aim of the examination is to see how thorough the applicant's knowledge is of the conditions under which the county free library work must be carried on, and of the problems to be met in the work as it is actually being done in this State. A real and sympathetic understanding of the work in California is thus absolutely necessary. (2) The members of the Board feel that the oral examination is very important. They feel that they cannot fairly judge of an applicant's qualifications without meeting him in this way."

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A PROPOSED GIFT TO THE HARVARD LIBRARY comprises nearly three thousand volumes of Mormon literature collected by a Salt Lake City business man and now offered for sale, as a whole, at two dollars and fifty cents a volume. Secretary Roger Pierce, of the Harvard Alumni Association, is urging the Utah graduates of the university to furnish the money necessary to secure this collection, and to let it find shelter in the splendid library building now rising on the site of Gore Hall. That Mormonism possesses so large a body of literature as twenty-eight hundred volumes (the number given in the current report) will be news to many. The claim that this is the best collection of the sort in the West is not likely to be contested. Although the Mormon Church wishes to buy five hundred volumes of the collection to complete its own library, the owner prefers to sell the whole lot at once.