

# NEW BOOKS

**HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1850-1877**, by James Ford Rhodes. Volume VI, 1866-1872. Volume VII, 1872-1877. The original purpose of the author was to bring his work down to the inauguration of Grover Cleveland, which in the return of the Democratic party to power seemed to mark the end of the period under consideration, beginning with the Compromise of 1850. Dr. Rhodes has now decided, and we think wisely, to end his work with the final restoration of home rule in the South after the inauguration of Hayes in 1877. Therefore volume VII marks the close of a history which has established itself in the judgment of critics, students and educators as in many respects the ablest and most authoritative publication in its field. The phase of our national development covered in these most recent volumes offers great difficulties to the historian, but there is no other whose judicial interpretation is more needful. The race question bequeathed us by reconstruction is one of the most vital issues of the day, and we must shake off preconceptions and go to the root of the thing if we are to establish the best principles of action. Dr. Rhodes has more than an academic knowledge of the "carpet bag" days in the South; he was on the ground at various times, and met many of the figures on both sides. His treatment of reconstruction shows a striking grasp of the motives which swayed the men of the time. Not yet, we presume, may be expected an absolutely unbiased history of this exciting period; but this history by a Massachusetts man comes very near, we think, to giving full credit to the South, while it places much fully deserved blame upon partisans of the North who put party considerations above national expediency. There is little of the literary finish to Dr. Rhodes' work, but it is always to the point; the facts are neither obscured nor unduly emphasized by rhetorical display. In a revision for the later editions which the work deserves, occasional lapses in diction and several glaring typographical errors doubtless will be eliminated. But these are trivial objections to a work in whose greater merits we rejoice. [Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50 per volume.

**THE NATURE OF CAPITAL AND INCOME**, by Irving Fisher. Capital is the quantity of wealth in existence at an instant of time; income is the service rendered by the capital. This is the substance of Professor Fisher's conclusions. These he reaches after a very elaborate statement of principles in which the varying definitions of Adam Smith, Hermann, Marx, MacLeod, Walras and others are carefully considered. For the economist and the financier this is a treatise of much interest and value, while as a reference and text-book in schools and colleges it will doubtless approve itself. It is, says the author, "an attempt to put on a rational foundation the concepts and fundamental theories of capital and income. It therefore forms a sort of a philosophy of economic accounting, and, it is hoped, may supply a link long missing between the ideas and usages underlying practical business transactions and the theories of abstract economics." We judge the attempt to be successful. [Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.00.

**THE TEXT OF SHAKESPEARE**, by Thomas R. Lounsbury, L.H.D., LL.D., professor of English in Yale University, will delight the heart of Shakespeare lovers. Indeed, its opening chapters upon "The Dramatic Situation in Shakespeare's Time" and the "Attitude of Playwrights," reveal a multitude of facts known only to the most thorough of English scholars. The author shows by many citations and indubitable evidence how slight was the regard in which plays were held by the public, and how poorly equipped that public was to pass upon the literary merits of a masterpiece. Following these illuminating chapters we have critical accounts of early editions and details of errors and their corrections. Professor Lounsbury gives an illustration of the almost incredible carelessness with which the plays were first set up, the line in which Dame Quickly describes the death of Falstaff, as quiet "as a chrisom child," telling us how in his final delirium he "babbled o' green fields." And this wonderful touch of nature appeared first as "a table o' green fields." No wonder is it that it took many years and shrewd guessing to hit upon the real meaning of the play. So is the volume full of delightful surprises, written in the perfect English and lucid style which distinguish this eminent scholar. We doubt not that the book will find even a more rapid sale in "the old home" than in America itself, although it will not lack its multitude of appreciative readers here. [Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.

**NEW CENTURY HYMN BOOK**, Edited by Will L. Thompson, makes its boast that there are but twenty "brand new" tunes in it. But there are 250 others which have been selected after an almost incredible amount of correspondence with pastors and Sunday-school leaders in all parts of the country. Thus these tunes and these hymns are the ones in actual use and are those which have received general approval. It is safe to say that few people will search for their favorites here without finding them. The book also includes a number of responsive readings from the psalms with a few simple chants. There can be no question that the larger use of such music would do a good deal to correct the vitiated taste in sacred music which some of our children seem to be acquiring. [Will L. Thompson, East Liverpool, O. 25 to 35 cents.

**JOHN SHERMAN**, by Theodore E. Burton. (American Statesmen—Second Series.) Sherman was of a decidedly practical bent of mind; he had no fondness for the high-sounding speeches that sometimes win lasting fame for their makers without affecting the course of legislation. His career was in no sense spectacular, and his personality was far from being as interesting as that, for instance, of his distinguished brother. But from the time he was first chosen to Congress in 1854 until his retirement from the Senate in 1897, he made a strong impression upon national legislation. Though Mr. Burton writes as one having intimate knowledge, the personal side of his subject receives little attention; but the work is concise, frank, and well proportioned. [Houghton, Mifflin and Company Boston. \$1.25 net.



**INDUSTRIAL AMERICA**, by J. Lawrence Laughlin. In connection with the interchange of professors between Germany and America, Professor Laughlin delivered these lectures last spring before the Vereinigung für Staatswissenschaftliche Fortbildung in Berlin, and elsewhere in Germany. In general they appear to be a very lucid and reasonably accurate resumé of the economic situation in America; and being made sufficiently elementary to meet the needs of a foreign audience, should be of great interest to Americans who seek to be well informed on this subject. But, says the lecturer, "in spite of the intellectual ferment among economic students, in spite of much admirable writing intended for popular consumption, it remains true that the professional economists have very little influence upon the convictions of the great body of our people." One reason for this is apparent in the author's own treatment of the labor question, to mention only one subject. In it he betrays that blind dependence upon statistics and unsupported generalizations which is the snare of the library-bred economist. He repeats the common mistake of asserting as a general proposition that unions impose a fine to enforce an unjust restriction of output, which is in reality exceptional, taking all trades into consideration; he quotes the time-honored statement that only 7 per cent of the total number of laborers belong to the unions, which if not elucidated suggests a situation that does not exist; and his treatment of the entire subject is from the standpoint of the employer. That it is without the sympathetic element needful to an understanding of labor conditions was to be expected; but the whole matter is presented to his German listeners in such a form as to create an impression as unfair to honest labor men as it would be to class all business men with those whose "high financial" operations have outraged the public. The lecture on American banking is illuminating; here Professor Laughlin is on solid ground. [Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$1.20 net.

**FOUR CENTURIES OF THE PANAMA CANAL**, by Willis Fletcher Johnson. The digging of the great waterway will be a foremost topic in American affairs for many years yet, and though we may weary of the subject, we cannot escape our responsibility for the big undertaking. There is a great deal of misunderstanding regarding many features of the canal's past and present, this misconception being due largely to the fact that most of our information has been provided in a haphazard way—by newspapers and the reports of hurried visitors. Dr. Johnson has made a careful study of the canal and presents in this volume a comprehensive and apparently accurate history of the Isthmus from the discovery days to the present. The author is altogether in sympathy with what may be termed the administration view of the management of the enterprise, and it is possible that some allowance must be made for this tendency. At any rate, the space given to detractors of the canal management might have been better utilized. The best answer to critics is to go ahead and dig. The appendices include important documents connected with the purchase of the canal property, the establishment of the Panama republic, and the existing organization and general plans for construction. The book should be of much service for reference. [Henry Holt and Company, New York. \$3.00 net.

**THE ENGLISH PATENTS OF MONOPOLY**, by William Hyde Price. This is the first volume of the useful Harvard economic studies, published under the direction of the department of economics of the University. This study by Professor Price, who is instructor in political economy at the University of Wisconsin, was awarded the David A. Wells prize for 1905-06. The period under discussion extends from the middle of the sixteenth to the middle of the seventeenth century. While the earlier effects of the patents granted under Elizabeth were chiefly the benefit of favorite courtiers and the financial burdening of the people, they held in them the germs of the modern patent system for the encouragement of invention and the development of industry, and in the necessary aggregation of capital the beginnings of the stock corporation are discernible. Progress of the system is carefully traced and the treatise is accompanied with an extensive bibliography. The second volume in this series will be *The Lodging House Question* in Boston, by Albert B. Wolfe. [Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Boston. \$1.50 net.

**MARS AND ITS MYSTERY**, by Edward S. Morse. Though of the controversial type, this consideration of the planet that has been the subject of so much conjecture is presented in a popular style that is far from uninteresting even to one who knows little or nothing about astronomy as a science. Mr. Morse, who was formerly a professor in the Imperial University at Tokyo, has given much study to the subject of whether there are evidences of the existence of intelligence on Mars, and is very decided in his affirmative conclusion. Much of his evidence is credited to other observers, but he spent a considerable period at Lowell Observatory in Arizona, during which he saw,—or, as some skeptics would insist, thought he saw,—several of the markings upon Mars that are supposed to indicate the existence of canals. The contention which Mr. Morse supports is that conditions in Mars are such that life may exist, and that there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that existence. Whether the life be in the form of man as we know him, is a further question. [Little, Brown and Company, Boston. \$2.00.

**ORGANIZED DEMOCRACY**, by Albert Stickney. Mr. Stickney goes over much ground that has been traversed previously by those in search of political perfection, but his proposal for a reorganization of governmental forces is not commonplace, nor is it without merit. Instead of the broad system of representation now in effect, he would have very small groups of population choose representatives, these in turn to select other officials, except the Chief Executive. In effect the plan would restore the old town-meeting system on a slightly modified basis. Mr. Stickney believes this would purify the political system and create an aristocracy of merit in officeholding. To support his plea for a change in system he devotes a chapter to the political influences which he alleges governed Lincoln in his administration, against the true interests of the nation. [Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.

**THE VIPER OF MILAN**, by Marjorie Bowen, is by no means a lovely story, dealing as it does with a character entirely lost to all sense of honor or justice or right; who knew fear neither of God nor man, neither pity nor remorse, and whose ambition amounted to madness. His standard,—a green viper on a silver ground—the emblazonment of the Visconti, was a fit emblem of the nature of its bearer. What can one say of such a man, save that his career was steeped in crime and blood? Lombardy in 1360 was the scene of the conquests of this invincible Gian Galeazzo Maria Visconti, and here it was his ambition to become king in name as well as in power, placing his family among the dynasties of Europe. Just as he reached the fulfillment of his dream retribution came to him and the Viper of Milan was crushed forever. Though written with unusual strength and vigor and keenness, and a vivid presentation of the Italy of those days,—probably because the author is very young,—there is not a single spot of brightness in the whole book to lighten the gloom of wickedness and cruelty, save, perhaps, the love of the Duke of Verona for his wife, and his hopeless efforts to rescue her from the clutches of the Viper. It's a question whether it really pays to read anything which freezes the marrow in one's bones even while it heats the imagination and stirs one to hatred and vengeful feelings. But Miss Bowen has undoubtedly written a historical novel of considerable power,—provided one likes the brand. [McClure, Phillips and Company. \$1.50.

**THE WHITE PLUME**, by S. R. Crockett. The France of the days immediately following the massacre of St. Bartholomew supplies the setting of this historical novel,—a setting which, though used and used again, never palls nor loses its romantic interest. Here are warring Catholics and Protestants, the former wandering in mazes of subtlety and treachery, the latter strong, unyielding. And here too are the three Henrys—the Duke of Guise, Henry of Valois, and Henry of Navarre, the "White Plume," who were not alone making the history of France in their time, but prophesying for her future as well. The action of such a tale as this is so obvious, and its entertaining qualities so taken for granted when handled by a well-known raconteur like Mr. Crockett, that an extended review is hardly necessary. Mr. Crockett tells his story not in the language of romance, but in the stronger, sterner fashion befitting the seriousness of the times; and mention must be made of a troubled love story brought to a happy termination, and of the noble sacrifice of the sister of Henry of Valois for the man she loved. As a study in the machinations of church and state, this book has decided worth, and there seems to be an honest intention on the author's part to give history a chance to assert itself, instead of swallowing it up in the clang and swagger of a swashbuckling yarn. [Dodd, Mead and Company. \$1.50.

**ADVENTURES IN THE GREAT DESERTS**, by H. W. G. Hyrst, and **ADVENTURES ON THE GREAT RIVERS**, by Richard Stead, are companion volumes, each filled with accounts of romantic experiences "by field and flood." One roams the wide world with these books, successive chapters transporting one from Asia to South America and back to Europe as with an enchanter's wand. The experiences are sometimes those of the explorer, sometimes we are companions of the scientist and sometimes the reader is merely "out for big game." The perils and escapes of missionaries are reserved for a separate volume. The various chapters make easy reading, but not much is to be said of their literary execution,—perhaps not much was to be expected. The "adventures" have a trick of breaking off rather suddenly, which is to be accounted for on the ground that they constituted originally short chapters from larger works. Some of the incidents happened in the last century and some in the last decade, but all go to make up a recital with which one may drive away ennui or rest the mind from severer studies. The illustrations, which are fairly numerous, add something to the elucidation of the text but can hardly be called artistic triumphs. The press work is excellent, however, and the light-weight paper renders the volumes easy handling. [Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$1.50 each.

**OUR CONSTITUTION, Why and How It Was Made and What It Is**, by Edward Waterman Townsend, is good enough to be constituted a text-book in our institutions of learning. The author takes up the conditions out of which the colonial charters sprang and traces the growth of civil liberty among the first settlers in America. He gives sketches of the prominent men who molded public opinion and shaped the articles of agreement out of which the Constitution grew. The Constitution itself is passed in review, and the reader is shown why each section was worded as it is, what questions of construction have arisen under it, and how far it has been strengthened or weakened in practice. The volume is one of little literary pretensions but of sterling worth as a source of information, and he must be a very well informed American who will not find in its pages some things new to him. [Moffat, Yard and Company, New York. \$1.50.

**TUBERCULOSIS: ITS ORIGIN AND EXTINCTION**, by W. Pickett Turner, M.D. In this brief treatise Dr. Turner, who is an Englishman, advocates the theory that tuberculosis is in all cases primarily derived from cattle; that it is not hereditary, and there is no predisposition toward it; and that the bacillus is naturally saprophyte, but in cattle becomes pathogenic when the bovines are deprived of actinism. Therefore he proposes that cattle shall be subjected to vertical sun's rays as a preventive. [Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.00.

**THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS ALMANAC AND YEARBOOK** for 1907 is a whole library in itself, with the advantage of being compact and arranged to provide quick answers to anxious questions. Each year of this annual marks some added feature of usefulness to make it more completely indispensable in office or library. [30 cents.

**DAILY JOY AND DAILY PEACE**. Selected and arranged by Rose Porter. This neatly bound and printed little volume contains one or more selections in poetry or prose, all of devotional character, for each day in the year. There are several illustrations. [T. Y. Crowell and Company, New York. 50 cents.