

THIS MOST RECENT of the many aids to readers and students with which the literary market seems just now in danger of being overstocked has several features worthy of attention. The careful and conscientious editors, doubtless aware that their own unfamiliar names would carry no weight, have given unusual importance to the volume by the insertion of a list of two hundred or more contributors—bishops, deans, archdeacons, M.P.s, librarians, diplomats, poets, professors, historians and essayists. Here are such names as Archer, Bryce, Grove, Harrison, Lankester, Lockyer, Lubbock, Morris, Müller, Pollock, Saintsbury, Symonds, and our own versatile Leland and scholarly Winsor. These and the rest would seem sufficient assurance that the work has been well and thoroughly done, and is representative of some of the best critical judgment of the day, and that the omissions, presently to be noted, are due to peculiarities of taste rather than ignorance.

The classification is, in general, good, covering, through cross-references, a wide range of topics—in fact, almost everything one would commonly look for in a library. There are occasional brief notes, explanatory and suggestive, calling attention to merits or defects of certain books, or estimating their relative values. Each country has proportionate space, in which the titles are arranged under geography, history, language and literature. England, France, Germany and Italy thus receive ample treatment. English literature is classified according to periods, and French and German so as to be most helpful to the students of those tongues. Another useful feature is the list of historical novels, grouped under countries. Such subjects as art, botany, anthropology, music, political economy, have evidently been intrusted to specialists, with excellent results. The editors have done a very good piece of work, and in most points their volume deserves to rank among the best bibliographies of the day.

Yet it has its shortcomings, a few of which may be mentioned, in response to the invitation of the compilers. Except in two or three lists, the titles are thrown together miscellaneously, with no regard to alphabetic sequence—an uncommendable departure from the custom of cataloguing. There is no classification of the standard biographies—a desirable addition. Under poetry, only Victorian and humorous works are named. There is a good list of English novels; why not a similar one of English poems? Hume appears as a philosopher, but his history finds no place. Palgrave and Turner on the Anglo-Saxons seem also to have become obsolete. Fairholt's 'British Costume' (2 vols., Bohn), Gossip's 'Chess-Player's Manual,' Alcock's Ja-

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pan, Audesley and Rowe's 'Keramic Art of Japan' and Robertson's Church History, are among the important omissions. And why is A. J. C. Hare studiously ignored? Not one of his admirable 'Walks' or 'Days' or 'Wanderings' is referred to. What has superseded Bishop Wordsworth's unique and beautiful volume on Greece? And have Horne's Introduction and Lange's great Bible Commentary already passed into oblivion?

The 'Guide' shows the usual British unappreciativeness of American literature. In poetry it knows only Longfellow, Whitman, Leland, 'Hosea Biglow,' and Bret Harte, the latter being entered under B. Taylor's Faust is also recognized, but not Bryant's Homer, or Cranch's Virgil. Felton's Greece, Doolittle's 'Social Life of the Chinese,' Van Laun's French Literature, Thomson's 'Land and Book,' in its enlarged and sumptuous edition, Clarke's 'Ten Great Religions'—each of them unsurpassed in its special line—have no mention. And can it be that the compilers have never seen Mr. Bartlett's 'Familiar Quotations,' or the Hoyt-Ward Cyclopædia? The list of anthologies of English verse might be made much better by adding a half-dozen American works. Mr. Winsor has probably had in hand the department of United States geography, history and politics, for this is sufficiently good, though the showing of local histories is very meagre.
