

FIVE of Prof. Swinton's Readers, constituting a series, lie on our table, and are quite worthy to lie on every teacher's table, both for their prettiness and usefulness in the class-room. We believe no one has ever counted the volumes written by this most prolific author, or estimated the hold he has on the young people of the country. He has certainly reduced the method of making school-books to an art, and a fine art it is, too. He has gauged the needs of the school-room, and seldom strikes too high or too low to reach the class of girls and boys he means to hit. These five books take the range of all children from the youngest to the oldest—from six to sixteen—covering a wide variety of boy with a wide variety of matter. One is struck with the simplicity and pureness of it all. There is nothing unclean or loosely selected—nothing that is not worthy to stay with any child. The selections of verse are sweet, natural, easy productions that appeal to the sympathies and not to the passions. They almost commit themselves to memory, they are so correct in form and spicy in matter. Those in prose are representative of the time,—a time when people thirst for information in the line of the sciences, travel, and biography. The development of the powers of the child is kept in view,—not only the development of facility in reading, but that of facility in thinking and arranging thought. Like most writers of school-readers nowadays, Prof. Swinton feels the necessity of carrying spelling, punctuation and composition along with inflection, pronunciation, and word-analysis, and makes all these branches of word-study a part of his course. We commend the series of Readers to all wide-awake and to all sleepy teachers.