

## MINOR NOTICES.

*Man Before Metals.* By N. Joly, Professor of the Science Faculty of Toulouse. One hundred and forty-eight illustrations. International Scientific Series. [D. Appleton & Co. \$1.75.]

This book contains a tolerably clear summary of the argument for man's great antiquity so far as evidence has accumulated in Europe; but is lamentably deficient in its treatment of discoveries in America. The latter half of the book treats of primitive civilization, and contains a great deal of interesting information. The author's habit is to present theories of others and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions—a rather unsatisfactory process, unless the reader has so much information of his own that he does not need to read the book. For fuller information upon the subject the reader must go to Lyell, Lubbock, Evans, Tylor, and Abbott. The translation, though in the main good, needs to be revised by one who writes English: for example, p. 20, "We cannot hitherto decide with certainty;" p. 35, "The true nature of these flints has not been made known to us for more than forty years;" p. 167, "The mounds are great earthworks destined [designed] to serve as military defences."

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*A New Political Economy.* By John M. Gregory. [Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co.]

The author who finds that some of the "grandest features" of economic science "were evidently seen by Moses, Plato, and Aristotle" is scarcely the person to make a new Political Economy. In fact this book is a medley of crude opinions, and more or less bad political economy. Certainly it is not scientific. The attempt to illustrate doctrine by diagrams is, to our mind, a right and desirable aim; but when the author tries to reason on the basis of his diagrams he will get some definite conclusions, to be sure, but very little political economy of a safe kind. As an instance in point, reference can be made to his discussion of Value. This has been illustrated by the three sides of a triangle, representing utility, effort, and ownership, the three essentials of value. But when he uses the mathematical properties of the triangle with which to get on in political economy he goes astray. He is a very unscientific writer indeed who considers Quesnay a "modern writer," and defines demand as "wants" and supply as "wealth." How Mr. Cairnes would run a tilt into him with his conception of the reciprocal nature of demand and supply! As if there could be demand simply because of wants! It is full time that loose ideas should be ruled out of a science in which so much of practical importance centers. It is not a good book for beginners.

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*Inquiry into Human Faculty and its Development.* By Francis Galton. [Macmillan & Co. \$3.00.]

The larger part of this book has already appeared in various periodicals; but the matter is so interesting, and the treatment of the subject so unique, that it is well worthy of preservation in this permanent form. Among the striking features of the book is a page of the author's

composite portraits, which result from exposing a photographic plate to a succession of faces, so that you shall have not a portrait of one individual, but the impression made by the resemblances of several individuals. By exposing for one second each the photographs of eight criminals instead of the photograph of one criminal for eight seconds, a picture is secured, not of any particular individual, but of the criminal type. The author hopes to further the course of evolution, and supplement the power of natural selection in the case of man, as in the case of animals, by artificial means. He believes in hereditary genius, and he would explore the English race, and record their now unknown wealth of hereditary gifts, and create a public sentiment which should support an aristocracy of those who had special natural gifts, encourage early marriage between those of like gifts, and cause them to shrink from spoiling their good race by low marriages. Mr. Galton belongs to a class of writers who feel compelled to eliminate the supernatural from human history, and his view of the future partakes of the inevitable gloom which settles down over all theories that leave immortality out of view.