

supplement the conventional encyclopedias in a very acceptable way, and are useful both for reference and for miscellaneous reading. How many know off-hand, for example, what is the ceremony of "Cutting of the Khalig," or can discourse upon the "Blood-Tax in the Pyrennes." Mr. Walsh's book is for those who do not know such things, but would like to know them.

A few months ago we noticed in *THE DIAL* (July 1) Mr. Frank M. Chapman's "Bird-Life," a volume containing "as much information regarding a hundred or more of our familiar birds as could be compressed within its limits." The work lacked but one feature — colored plates representing the birds as they appear in life; and this feature has now been supplied in a new edition just issued by Messrs. Appleton & Co. There are seventy-five full-page colored plates, so well done that we can emphasize our previous commendation, "The student who selects this work as a guide to his observations of bird-life will not go amiss."

Philip II. of Spain is the subject of a volume, by Mr. Martin A. S. Hume, in the "Foreign Statesmen Series" (Macmillan). Those who have had the good fortune to become acquainted with Mr. Hume's earlier studies in the history of England and Spain in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and who remember especially the few paragraphs given in one of his essays to an estimate of the character of Philip II., will know how valuable and readable an extended biography of Philip from his pen must be. Nothing of its kind exists in English. It may be unhesitatingly and highly praised.

Dr. William H. Griffis's "The Romance of Discovery" (Wilde & Co.) is really a general account of American discovery from the time of the Norsemen to the present; and it is particularly designed for young people. However, the story is too summary and too obviously made-to-order to be of the highest interest to either young or old. The volume contains some good illustrations, but lacks a map.

The third quinquennial supplement to "Poole's Index to Periodical Literature" (Houghton), edited by Messrs. William I. Fletcher and Franklin O. Poole, with the coöperation of the American Library Association, has just made its appearance. It is a bulky volume of over six hundred quarto pages, that is, about one-third more voluminous than either of its predecessors. The number of sets of periodicals covered is one hundred and eighty-seven, sixty of which have not been included in any previous issue. Of the latter, forty-two have had their origin since 1891. On the other hand, twenty-three sets represented in the list of five years ago have been dropped. As is eminently fitting, this volume contains a portrait of William Frederick Poole, and a brief sketch of his industrious and useful life.

The volume for 1897 of "American Book-Prices Current," compiled from the auctioneers' catalogues by Mr. Luther S. Livingston, has just been published by Messrs. Dodd, Mead, & Co. It is a volume of five hundred and fifty pages, and the edition is limited to six hundred copies. The record is based upon sales made in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Cincinnati, for the year ending with last August. The general rule has been to include accurately described lots bringing three dollars and upwards, which means over eight thousand entries in the present case. The highest price of the year was \$1250, paid for an edition of the "Book of Common Prayer," dated 1788, and having considerable autograph and ownership interest connected with it.

Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons have published some "Selected Poems by George Meredith" in a volume so exquisite in design and mechanical execution that the most fanatical of Meredithians could ask for nothing worthier. We are told that the selection has been made under the author's personal supervision, a method which is usually more interesting than satisfactory. At any rate, in the present case it gives us "Juggling Jerry" and does not give us the magnificent ode to "France" in the hour of her agony, thus illustrating anew the fact that a poet is usually a poor judge of his own productions. In fact, the selection as a whole slights the simple and fresh work of the author's earlier years for the sake of the contortions and grotesque affectations of his later style. A worse service than this could hardly be done him even by the most superior person among his small but devoted following.

The "Poems of Thomas Hood" (Macmillan), edited by the Rev. Alfred Ainger, have been published in two volumes of the ever-charming "Eversley" form, and all students of literature and readers of poetry must be grateful for the attractiveness of the publication, as well as for the scholarly care which the editor has expended upon the memoir, the notes, and the text itself. The first volume contains the "Serious Poems," and the second a selection (perhaps two-thirds of the whole) from the "Poems of Wit and Humor" that Hood produced so copiously for the "Comic Annuals" and other ephemeral publications. Hood was not so great a poet as to make it desirable to preserve with scrupulous care every scrap of his writing, and the editor is quite justified in having used his discretion in this matter.

The "Shakespeare Note-Book" (Ginn) is a blank book with proper headings and divisions for the convenience of students in making memoranda for ready reference to the items which are considered of most importance in the study of the plays. The first three pages are given to printed matter condensed from Dowden's "Shakespeare Primer," in relation to such points as chronological order, classification by types, reference books, etc.

Mr. William S. Walsh, the compiler of a popular "Handy-Book of Literary Curiosities," has just supplied that entertaining work with a companion volume, entitled "Curiosities of Popular Customs" (Lippincott), and dealing with all sorts of rites, ceremonies, and festivities familiar to the folklorist. Such compilations as these