

feminine partiality for old china. When I go to see a great house I inquire for the china-closet, and next for the picture gallery," wrote Charles Lamb.

Mr. John C. L. Sparkes, of the South Kensington Museum, and Mr. Walter Gandy have collaborated in this volume to produce a work which, while taking nothing of a technical nature for granted, is yet so full of side references and general information as to be exceedingly readable throughout. "Whatever there is of interest to us in the piece of work the workman put there, the work has become the permanent expression of the worker's skill and taste—the material comparatively nothing; the art almost everything." And so between receipts for glazes are written anecdotes of the potters and of the kings and princes who befriended them. The chapter on processes is so simply and clearly written that the reader feels almost able to "throw" and "glaze" and "fire" without further instruction. Ancient pottery appeals perhaps to a more limited class, but is here invested with an interest quite unusual. Mediæval pottery, as produced in the various European countries, is described with many quaint quotations from cups and plates:

"Be mery and wise."

"Drink faire—do n't sware."

The chapter on China and Japan, and the various imitations of their products in Holland and England, is comprehensive, and yet, in a small space, covers all the ground. "The absurd phrase of *living up to one's teapot*—one of the literary missiles that were aimed some few years ago at the *Æsthetic* movement—was not so absurd after all. It would be a good thing for our native arts if our designers would live up to the standard of good Japanese work, and look at Nature for themselves."

It is rather strange among the moderns to find no mention of Rookwood nor even of Dedham, though there is a statement that Chinese *sang de bœuf* has never been successfully imitated, thus ignoring Hugh Robertson's heroic efforts and more than successful achievements in this direction. The references to American work are in fact confined to a short appendix of four pages.

Mr. Sparkes, who writes the preface, apologizes unnecessarily for adding another volume to the long list already published on this subject.

POTTERS AND POTTERY

POTTERS; THEIR ARTS AND CRAFTS.—By John C. L. Sparkes and Walter Gandy. 12mo. Thomas Whittaker. Illustrated. \$1.25.

CARLYLE'S scornful nick-name for historians, "Dry-as-dust," is still more applicable to most of the writers who have discussed china and pottery. Yet, in a way, there is no more fascinating subject, nor one more interwoven with history and human interest. It appeals to every woman's heart and to many a man's, if he dare but acknowledge it. "I have an almost

