"Margaret Winthrop"

By Alice Morse Earle. Charles Scribner's Sons.

THERE IS AN increasing tendency, a very happy one, we think, to clothe what we may call the dry bones of history with the details which make the men of the past actual and living to us. If it be, as some think, of less importance to have an accurate memory for "dates" and the intricate windings of military campaigns, than to possess an intelligent knowledge of the life which people at different periods lived, of their occupations and their ways of looking at things, then such a book as this is in the right line; and the whole series (under the general title of "Women of Colonial and Revolutionary Times") will be read with interest. Mrs. Earle has chosen an attractive subject in the wife of Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts, not only from her own high and noble character, but from the important events and associations among which her life was passed. The social or domestic portion of the book has a twofold interest, giving us an insight into the life of the period in both Old and New England, since only sixteen of Margaret Winthrop's fifty-six years were passed in America. It is the narrative of those years, however, that will principally attract American readers, and Bostonians in particular, as the humble beginnings of their city are graphically traced.

It is a little singular, by the way, that the first dweller on its site should have been a Church of England clergyman, William Blaxton or Blackstone, "one of the godly Episcopalians," as Mather calls him, though Mrs. Earle describes him merely as "a kindly Englishman." Governor Winthrop writes in 1630:—"My deare wife, we are heer in a paradise," perhaps the first instance of an enthusiasm whose tradition exists to this day. The most minute details are given of domestic life in the Governor's household, an inventory of six pages enabling us to reproduce every part thereof, even to "3pr old bootes—2 ould hattes," which, with "1 sealeskin," were valued at fifteen shillings; while the numerous letters give us an equally clear idea of the tender and affectionate relations of the family. The record closes with Margaret Winthrop's death in 1647, only a passing allusion telling us (in the style which sometimes grows almost too naïvely familiar) that "there was a fourth wife, whether we quite like it or not." The merits of the book are scarcely marred by any faults; there are a few slips, like the calling of Sir Harry Vane a "noble," and the quoting of "Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses"; but even if we could not praise the original portion of the work as highly as we can, we should still be grateful to Mrs. Earle for rendering accessible with so much painstaking and judgment the intimate records of a bygone day.

Mathematics

"THEORETICAL MECHANICS OF SOLIDS," by J. Edward Taylor, is intended as an introduction to the study of this subject. All propositions and proofs beyond the field of a beginner have been avoided. The book is full of numerical examples, a number of which are solved as models at the end of each chapter. The working out of these examples as supplementary to the explanations given in the text or by the teacher will materially assist the student in grasping the principles involved. Such subjects as motion, forces, moments, centres of gravity, work, machines, etc., are very well treated in an elementary way. (Longmans, Green & Co.)——"THE ELEMENTS OF NAVIGATION," by W. J. Henderson, also, is designed for the instruction of beginners. It is a short and simple, and yet quite complete, little treatise on the art of navigating a ship, that can easily be read, the fundamental principles being made understandable without a knowledge of the higher mathematics of the subject. The various instruments of navigation are illustrated and their use explained, as are, also, the uses of tables and the nautical almanac. A number of illustrative examples are solved, and others have been inserted to be solved by the reader. The book is evidently not written to be used especially as a text-book, but rather as a book for general readers interested in the subject. (Harper & Bros.)

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"ELEMENTS OF GEOMETRY," by John Macnie, edited by Emerson E. White, is a geometry for high schools. While the work is superior to such a book as Wentworth's, there are many geometries in the field fully its equals, and some much superior. The only excuses that can be offered for its existence, are that the author has a good knowledge of the subject, some good ideas on the teaching of it, and wanted to make a book. A large number of exercises for original work have been inserted and are, in the main, very well selected and adapted to the learner of average ability. They also bear directly on important principles to a great extent. The work will without doubt stand the test of the class-room and offer the pupil an opportunity for a good preparation in geometry. (American Book Co.)——HALL AND KNIGHT'S "Elementary Algebra," revised and adapted to American schools by F. L. Sevenoak, is a very complete treatise on the elements of algebra as taught in our schools. All topics in this subject required for entrance to any American college or university are adequately treated. The book contains, also, chapters on indeterminate coefficients, series, determinants, continued fraction, theory of equation, etc., not usually found in an elementary algebra. The special aim of the book seems to be to bring out the principles as they are to be applied in scientific work. This edition is an improvement on the English one, which is itself a most excellent book.——"ARITHMETIC FOR SCHOOLS," by Charles Smith, rewritten and revised by C. L. Harrington, is designed for high schools. It contains a large number of good examples, and the explanations are clear and concise. Considerable attention is paid throughout to oral exercises. There seems to be a tendency among writers of recent works on arithmetic to emphasize the oral side of the subject, and to pay less attention to difficult problems and conundrums. This is a very hopeful sign of the times, and perhaps in the future we shall hear less complaint about slow and inaccurate work. This book deserves a high place among text-books on this subject. (Macmillan & Co.)

Metaphysics, Ethics, Etc.

OF A NUMBER OF books in philosophy that just now call for review, the most important is a study of "Friedrich Edward Beneke, the Man and His Philosophy," by Dr. Francis B. Brandt. This study, a pamphlet of nearly 200 pages, is No. 4 of Vol. I of the Columbia College Contributions to Philosophy, Psychology and Education. It throws a good deal of light on the life and philosophy of a man who has had little attention in either England or America. Indeed, Beneke has been far from having his due even among his own countrymen. He was, insists Dr. Brandt, the pioneer in the movement of thought back to Kant, firing the "opening gun" as early as 1831, and his philosophy, although by no means to be characterized as negative and critical, is a powerful weapon against the dialectic of Fichte, Schelling and Hegel. Beneke's standpoint is nearly that of the later empirical psychology, or of our natural or non-metaphysical philosophy, and his significance in Germany has been largely psychological. "His chief following," Dr. Brandt tells us, "has been among the schoolmasters of Germany, and the superior value of his psychology, in its pedagogical, logical and ethical applications, has made this psychology not only a formidable rival of, but, in high educational circles, preferable to the Herbartian." For Beneke the inner self-consciousness, which Kant denied as possible, is a fundamental doctrine of experience. (Macmillan & Co.)

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THE CAUSE OF THE more modern logic, as presented by Bradley, Sigwart, Lotze and others, has been further strengthened by a small book, "The Essentials of Logic; or, Ten Lectures on Judgment and Inference," by Bernard Bosanquet. Here the writer gives shorter form and more popular expression to the views he has already published *in extenso* in his larger work. The ten lectures were inspired by the University Extension System, and, since they are as valuable as readable, the author's closing remark in his preface is not without point in some quarters. "I hope," he writes, "it will be admitted that this experiment, whether successful or unsuccessful, was worth making, and that, except in the University Extension System, it could not easily have been made." (Macmillan & Co.)——UNDER THE HEADING "Life and the Conditions of Survival: The Physical Basis of Ethics, Sociology and Religion," a collection of over a dozen lectures and discussions held before the Brooklyn Ethical Association has been recently published. The lectures are popular, but have more depth than most so-called "popular philosophy." They are sermons, but of what good orthodox people would style with quiet reproach the "most advanced type." They would get morals out of physics, and are certainly profitable reading. Some of the lectures in the course are on "Cosmic Evolution as Related to Ethics," by Dr. Lewis G. James; "Food as Related to Life and Survival," by Prof. W. O. Atwater; "The Origin of Structural Variations," by Prof. E. D. Cope; "Habit," by the Rev. J. W. Chadwick; and others with subjects equally inviting. (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co.)

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"SHORT STUDIES IN ETHICS," by the Rev. J. O. Miller, Principal of Bishop Ridley College, is an "elementary text-book for schools," but it is hard for us to see how such a book can serve any important end anywhere. It contains most simple lessons on duty, obedience, honesty, repentance, conscience and a score or more of other similar topics. "Duty is something which is due, and which, therefore, ought to be paid or performed. It is something owed by everybody, to God, to self, and to others"; "Truthfulness is speaking and acting in a perfectly straightforward way, without any attempt to add to, or take from, the facts"; "Profanity is using the name of God, or of anything sacred, in a disrespectful or light and careless way," and so indefinitely. These definitions are printed conspicuously at the heads of the different lessons, and each is followed by a talk, containing some poetry and some piety, such as might be heard at Sunday-school, or, if not there, at any place where the tendency is to substitute sentimental abstraction for practical advice. Not that we decry for a moment poetry or piety or abstract sentiment, but these do not seem to us to be proper material for a text-book. What value they have comes through presence and personality, and, more than all else, through spontaneity. In a text-book they are dead and are revived at best with difficulty. A man, not a text-book, must be the successful teacher of morals in our schools. Principal Miller is doubtless successful, but his text-book, as we have said, seems useless. Such definitions, too, are—well, they seem to us more than useless. The present is no time for abstract tautologies. Religion no longer insists on the catechism, nor morals on formulæ. Our idea of the proper "Short Studies in Ethics" comprises something far more practical. (Toronto: The Bryant Press.)——PROF. KING of Oberlin has prepared with great care and has had printed "An Outline of The Microcosmus of Hermann Lotze." (Oberlin: Pearce & Randolph.)

New Books and New Editions

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT'S "Life of Her Majesty Queen Victoria" presents a somewhat flattering portrait, as the phrase goes. We can hardly admit, for instance, that "by her sagacity and persistent devotion to duty [the Queen] has created modern constitutionalism, and more than any other single person has made England and the English monarchy what they now are." Apropos of constitutions, few Americans will agree with Miss Fawcett that "within its own prescribed limitations [a hereditary monarchy] applies the democratic maxim, *la carrière*

ouverte aux talents, much more completely than any nominally democratic form of government." No doubt, Queen Victoria has displayed administrative talent of a high order. One need not look beyond these pages, however, for evidence that Victoria's excellent "record" as a sovereign must be attributed in great measure to the influence of her husband. Less than one-sixth of Miss Fawcett's book is occupied with the last thirty-four years of the Queen's reign, while the chronicle of the previous twenty-four covers more than two-thirds of the volume. The relative scantiness of the materials available for the story of the Queen's later life seems insufficient to account for this disparity. The truth is, that a candid biographer finds less to praise in the Queen's political and personal history since 1861. Miss Fawcett writes in no spirit of adulation, but is naturally proud of her sister-woman's life-work, and one feels that future historians will treat the period in question with less reticence. This is a woman's book in honor of a woman, and it should have a special interest for the sex. (Roberts Bros.)

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MR. L. E. CHITTENDEN'S little volume of "Selections from the Public Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln" comprises much of the best expression of this singularly discerning statesman. One cannot read the book without being profoundly impressed with the conviction that Lincoln was anything but the creature of circumstance which some writers have tried to prove him. The book opens with the address to the people of Sangamon County, written when, at the age of twenty-three, Lincoln was a candidate for election to the Legislature. The style of this production is strikingly like that of his later writings, and in its precision, logical sequence and bold expression, gives ample promise of the speech at Gettysburg. The reader lays down the book with a higher opinion of Lincoln's ability as a writer than he is likely to get from a much more pretentious volume. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)——IN "THE JUDICIAL MURDER of Mary E. Surratt," Mr. David Miller De Witt tells the story of the assassination of Lincoln, and of the trial and execution of those charged with the murder. The side taken in the controversy appears in the title chosen by the writer, who weakens his cause very materially by sweeping denunciation of everyone, high or low, connected with the Government at the time of the trial. In picking up a book that broaches a vexed question, one feels instinctively that, whether the author is right or wrong, only one kind of a book is worth while writing—the kind, namely, in which the subject is treated impartially and facts are left to speak for themselves. The strongest case imaginable would be weakened by the vehement abuse that comes so readily from the pen of the present author; and a case like the one under consideration is not thereby strengthened to the point of plausibility. (Baltimore: John Murphy & Co.)

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"SUCCESSWARD," by Edward W. Bok, is a book that will be very helpful to the class of young men for whom it is intended. Mr. Bok himself is an object-lesson in success, and the young men who follow his advice have a better chance of making a success in life than those who sow wild oats and reap the usual harvest. It is always in order to jeer at young men who lead moral lives and neither drink nor smoke, but virtue is its own reward and something more, as the young men who do as Mr. Bok advises will find out in the long run. The book may be a little "preachy," but Mr. Bok knows his audience—and it is a large one. (Fleming H. Revell Co.)——"ODD BITS OF HISTORY," by Henry W. Wolff, is a book that is precisely what it sets out to be; and what that is, the title indicates sufficiently. The eight papers, which have appeared in various English magazines, range in subject from "The Pretender at Bar-le-Duc" to "Something about Beer"—this latter essay, for example, telling in an entertaining manner the traditions concerning the origin of the humble thirst-quencher, and the laws that have regulated its manufacture. In other papers, many curious facts have been gleaned from out-of-the-way fields of history, and have been put together in a way that is interesting, despite the frequent faults in the author's style. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

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MR. W. H. RIDEING'S "In the Land of Lorna Doone, and Other Pleasurable Excursions in England," takes us over well-trodden ground; but the tramp in such genial company is nowise tedious. The other excursions are "In Cornwall with an Umbrella"—the invariable companion of the tourist in all parts of Great Britain, but eminently indispensable in that southwestern corner of the tight little island; "Coaching out of London," with much curious information concerning the coach-lines and their noble owners and drivers; "A Bit of the Yorkshire Coast," mainly devoted to Whitby, with its jet manufactures, famous for three centuries, and its venerable abbey of even longer renown; and "Amy Robsart, Kenilworth, and Warwick," a region of perennial charm, historical, romantic, and poetical. To those who have been over the ground, the book will be a delightful review of golden hours; to those who have this pleasure yet in store, a piquant appetizer, and, when the anticipation shall become a reality, a most agreeable supplement to the "dull-useful guide-book." The tourist will find it not too bulky for a pocket companion. (T. Y. Crowell & Co.)——"A HOLIDAY IN SPAIN AND NORWAY," by Caroline Earle White, is a collection of letters of which the author says that they were written "in the hurry of rapid travel when she was obliged at times to leave and return to them, her train of thought being broken, consequently they may appear somewhat discursive." They might have been improved by revision, especially in style, but will compare not unfavorably with the average record of tourist experiences in Europe. (J. B. Lippincott Co.)

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THE FAME OF the late Sir Samuel White Baker as a modern Nimrod has been so great and of such steady continuance, that his importance as an explorer, student, publicist and civil administrator has not always been appreciated. It is not wonderful that the author of "The Rifle and the Hounds in Ceylon" has been to the general public practically another personality than the discoverer of the Albert Nyanza, the Governor of the Soudan and the brave fighter of the slave-trade. It is only sheer justice to his memory that Messrs. T. Douglas Murray and A. Silva White have written his biography. The earlier chapters are of unusual interest, as showing the education of a typical British boy. While many of us, in his "Nile Tributaries of Abyssinia" and in "The Albert Nyanza," have made ourselves familiar with the facts of his active life, yet it is pleasant to read once more this story of a man of action. Though not gifted with the genius of his successor Gordon, Baker, in his struggle against a succession of setbacks that made his task as discouraging as that of Sisyphus, did a noble work in Central Africa, which, indeed, will be far more appreciated in the twentieth than in the nineteenth century. Those who would refresh their memories anent the revolt of the Mahdi, and the African question, especially as related to Great Britain, will find this work on "Sir Samuel Baker" most useful. The final chapter, "An Appreciation," is not exaggerated, it seems to us. Baker was a typical Englishman, intensely loyal and patriotic, and no history of the development of the British Empire in this century can be complete without mention of his name. (Macmillan & Co.)

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IT IS EVIDENT to critic and student that the enormous mass of our war literature has one great defect: it is too military; it does not give the civilian side with sufficient proportion. After all, the armies and navies and their commanders, the diplomatists and their directors in the presidential chair and in the cabinet, were but the giant mechanics of the War. Back of all of them stood Congress, where really the War had first to be fought:—"The President and all his embattled hosts were but the executives, working out—executing—the mandates of this seemingly silent, invisible, but all-creating and compelling power." Mr. Joseph West Moore's excellent recent book on "The American Congress" but emphasizes the fact that this important side of American history has received scant attention. Students will therefore give a warm welcome to Mr. Albert Galatin Riddle's portly volume of "Recollections of War Times, 1860–1865." He vividly portrays the men and measures in Washington during the War, gives full accounts of the more important items of legislation, and passes lightly over those that are matters of mere routine. His word-pictures and anecdotes of famous men are of unusual interest; and his sketch of Lincoln is decidedly his own, and will take honored place amid hundreds of other verbal photographs of this unique man. Well-arranged and well-indexed, this volume must long be a valuable work of reference for the student, while not a few chapters will prove of interest to the general reader. In the main, the narrative truthfully bears out the statement in the prefatory note that it was in Congress that the War had first to be fought. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)