

MINOR NOTICES.

The History and Poetry of Finger Rings.

By Charles Edwards. [A. C. Armstrong & Co. \$1.25.] Mr. Edwards *rings* many changes upon a subject which may be said to be *endless*. Starting off with a preface by R. H. Stoddard, the book is divided into five chapters under various heads. These are again subdivided into innumerable accounts, historical, fabulous, and poetical, of all noted rings; from the ring of Suphis, who lived two thousand years before the time of Christ, to the comparatively modern one presented to our late President Pierce by some citizens of California. The book is a very interesting one from the varied scraps of historical facts interwoven into the subject, as well as the occasional gems of poesy one finds amongst the rings. In the first

chapter we have, in connection with a ring supposed to belong to Shakespeare, the whole of that *phungent* poem inscribed, "To the idol of mine eyes and the delight of my heart, Anne Hathaway," of which this stanza is quoted in application to the subject:

Talk not of gems, the orient list,
The diamond, topaz, amethyst,
The emerald mild, the ruby gay:
Talk of my gem Anne Hathaway!
She *hath-a-way* with her bright eye,
Their various lustre to defy,
The jewel she, and the foil they,
So sweet to look Anne *hath-a-way*.
She *hath-a-way*
Anne Hathaway,
To shame bright gems Anne *hath-a-way*.

An interesting feature to many will be the space devoted to precious stones. The author gives an alphabetical list of them, with their French names, and a sort of calendar with the stones, and their influences, corresponding to each month of the year. Then, too, we have a full list of the superstitions connected with the various gems, and their influence upon the wearers. Altogether the book is replete with information upon the subject, and full of gossip stories of historical personages as well as of their rings.