

*In the capital
of Tamerlane.*

The latest account of Russian Turkestan comes from the pen of Mr.

William Eleroy Curtis, and, as might

be expected, the keen observations of this trained and travelled journalist make the book, "Turkestan, the Heart of Asia" (George H. Doran Co.), a most readable volume. A wonderful wealth of history and romance is associated with Merv and Khiva, Bokhara and Samarkand, and Mr. Curtis gives a striking account of the wretched state of the survivors of former greatness. "All the imposing structures that once gave Samarkand its reputation as the finest city in Asia have either disappeared or are in an advanced stage of decay and dilapidation. They have been almost entirely stripped of the adornments that made them famous, and the earthquakes that occur every few years diminish the number of turquoise and azure domes and increase the heaps of *débris* which now cover the ground."

No less interesting will be the account of the rapid development of Turkestan since the Russian occupation. Cotton-growing is the great industry there at present. Half the Russian consumption comes from Turkestan, and in time she hopes to be free from all dependence on the United States, although American seed and machinery have been used in the development of the industry. It is a bit surprising to learn that in the capital of Tamerlane "men go about the streets on those nuisances called motor-cycles. There are two or three garages with wide-open doors, and the *toot-toot-toot* of the automobiles makes you jump every now and then while you are crossing the street." Much of the book is, of course, devoted to ancient Turkestan, to Tamerlane and his times; but its real value lies in the account of present conditions along the line of Mr. Curtis's travels. The excellent illustrations are from photographs by Mr. John T. McCutcheon.

*Latin and Greek
in American
education.*

It is a noteworthy fact that a powerful defense of Latin and Greek should come from one of our great

State universities of the middle West. We refer to the volume of "Humanistic Papers" coming from the Macmillan press among the publications of the University of Michigan, and bearing the special title of "Latin and Greek in American Education." The idea of these papers was conceived by Professor Francis W. Kelsey, in connection with the Classical Conferences held under his leadership for a good many years past as a part of the programme of the

Michigan Schoolmasters' Club. The body of the volume consists of seven symposia, dealing respectively with the relation of classical studies to medicine, engineering, the law, theology, practical affairs, the new education, and formal discipline. These symposia, presented at various Classical Conferences, are preceded in the volume by three chapters from the pen of Professor Kelsey himself, and one from Professor R. M. Wenley, who from the chair of Philosophy has always extended the most hearty support to his classical colleagues in the faculty at Ann Arbor. The symposia themselves have been previously published, partly in "The School Review" and the remainder in "The Educational Review." Two of them — those dealing with the benefit of classical studies to students of medicine and engineering — have had the honor of publication in Germany, in a translation by Professor von Arnim, of the University of Vienna. It is to be hoped that in this more permanent form, with the added attraction of the excellent introductory chapters by Professors Kelsey and Wenley, they will receive renewed attention and do their appropriate share in fostering sounder ideas of culture than are generally prevalent in American education of the "up to date" variety.

*A compendium
of literary
experience.*

Henceforth, no more talk of "struggling authors"; or, at least, if the phrase does not vanish from our speech it will not be for lack of an exhaustive setting forth of the conditions of successful writing. The three hundred and sixty pages of Colles and Cresswell's "Success in Literature" (Duffield) are so comprehensive in scope and so replete with sane and measured utterance that the reader marvels at the way in which a compilation is made to give the impression of perfect familiarity on the part of its writers with every form of literary effort. Poetry, to be sure, is not included in their instruction, presumably for the reason that they realize the audacity of attempting to penetrate the mysteries of the thankless Muse; but every form of prose literature (or perhaps it would be better to say writing, for the tendency of the book is slightly toward considering the business, rather than the art, of writing) is so learnedly and lucidly and wisely discussed, and the work so abounds in counsel derived directly from the pens of authors in all tongues, ancient and modern, and indirectly from the record of their successes and failures, that it might well be called a compendium of literary experience. Every aspirant to literary success will find recorded in its pages many of his own thoughts and experiences. He will also find himself regaled with plenty of advice, which seems to have been framed expressly for himself . . . so much, indeed, that if he attempts to follow it all, or any considerable part of it, he will be impelled to the conclusion — to borrow a clause from the book itself — that "his natural abilities are in danger of being paralyzed by a plethora of salutary admonitions."

*Victims of the
wanderlust.*

Eleven years ago Mrs. Alice Willard Solenberger (then Miss Willard) was placed in charge of the Central District of the Chicago Bureau of Charities, and there she made a careful study of the homeless men who in large numbers applied to her for aid. Her investigations are now published under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation in a handy volume entitled "One Thousand Homeless Men" (Charities Publication Committee, New York). Mrs. Solenberger's death last December made necessary an explanatory preface to her work from another hand; and this is written by Mr. Francis H. McLean, who tells us, among other things, that "she believed that the personality-by-personality method of the charity organization movement had been too little used with homeless men and boys, and that until we employ this method with them, neither our theories regarding vagrancy nor our efforts to reduce it will be based upon a solid foundation of knowledge." In the body of the book we have a most careful analysis of the records of one thousand homeless men, indicating as far as possible the causes of this homelessness, the characteristics of the men, their individual treatment, their environment, and the social remedies to be applied. Appended matter gives further details, tabulated statistics, and some photogravure illustrations of lodging-house interiors. It is noteworthy how many of Mrs. Solenberger's vagrants were first made such by the unquenchable *wanderlust* that seizes upon nearly all of us at some time in our lives. The romantic youngster chases the rainbow, and ere long finds himself in a municipal lodging-house. The novelist and story-writer, as well as the charity-worker, can find much valuable raw material in Mrs. Solenberger's book.