

much more than so much labor in insisting that alcohol is bad. The most inveterate drunkard knows that alcohol is bad for him. Appetite must be controlled by something besides statistics. If one could be sure of educating to wise temperance every little child who was informed sufficiently early in life that he had better not learn to care for alcoholic stimulants, as their effect would be to 'overwork the perspiratory pores,' then indeed we might be pleased with such text-books as these; but not until then.

Dr. Newton's "Philistinism." *

THIS volume of sermons is in some important respects the most interesting which Dr. Newton has published. In its independence, its fearlessness, and its unconventionality, it is like the others; it shows, as they do, a strong desire to keep the forms of Christian thought and activity in close contact with the human life of this generation. But its topics are more varied, and the treatment of them is broader. A comparison with 'The Book of the Beginnings,' in particular, shows not only a great superiority in rhetorical power, which the difference of subjects would account for in part, but also a firmer grasp, a better command of his themes. The tone of the sermons is also decidedly constructive—though, indeed, the author has never posed as a mere iconoclast. On the other hand, it must be admitted that defects are present with which we have already grown somewhat familiar—an insistence on antagonisms in Christian opinion which do not exist, or do not exist in the degree represented; conversely, a failure to distinguish things that differ; an air of confidence, at times, which Dr. Newton's more conservative brethren might term arrogant; an occasional disposition to rest in a solution of difficulties by which the difficulties are not in fact solved. But if the author of these sermons does not show himself to be a great theologian nor always a sympathetic interpreter, he does clearly appear as a thoughtful man, seeking to understand the currents of his time, and as a conscientious, earnest and skilful preacher, seeking so to lead those currents that they may fructify and not devastate. To this end he endeavors to separate Christianity from what he considers its dogmatic excrescences, but to show, at the same time, how doctrinal forms which he cannot accept embody vital truths, and to guide his hearers and readers in discriminating the truth from the awkward or repulsive form of dogma with which it is often identified. It is these truths which he then exhibits as impregnable secure against the attacks of the 'Philistines'—whose leader, though unnamed, is of course Mr. Ingersoll. The large part of the book in which he gives a positive exposition of these truths, as he conceives of them, is the most fresh and suggestive portion of it.

Some Recent Text-Books.

PART I. of Practical Work in the Schoolroom, on 'The Human Body' (A. Lovell & Co.), is a disappointment. It is announced as composed of object lessons, but there is certainly little in its method to suggest an object lesson. It is, on the contrary, a regular manual of question and answer, and as the whole seems an ingenious excuse for dwelling less upon the body than upon the evil effects of alcoholic drinks, the answers are largely framed, not as direct statements of absolute facts, but as statements of what the teacher believes to be facts which he intends the pupil to accept without demur; much in the manner of those catechisms which inquire, 'What are you?' and dictate the reply, 'I am a sinful creature.' The strictly physiological portions are arranged for a dull routine of dictated replies, and the alcoholic portions are not of the kind to influence the learner in the least. Half as much time spent in teaching what is good for the body would be worth very

EXCELLENCE in school texts is now the order of the day. Once a good text is selected, such as Nipperdey's (on which the present edition is based), intelligent commentary begins to follow almost as a matter of course. Indeed, the school texts nowadays are almost too abundantly overlaid with comment, so that students are bewildered by the mass of illuminating material deemed necessary to the adequate illustration of even a hundred-times-edited text like Cæsar. The well-known edition of this author's Gallic War (seven books) by Alden and Greenough has just undergone a comprehensive revision at the hands of Mr. H. P. Judson, of Troy, who has furnished it with copious notes and dissertations, fully illustrated, on Cæsar's Gallic campaigns and the Roman military art. The notes of the earlier portion have been largely revised and rewritten, and Gildersleeve's and Harkness's grammars are now included in the grammatical references. Illustrations, diagrams, and battle-plans, from trustworthy sources, enhance on the graphic side the value of the greatest military history ever written. Professor J. B. Greenough furnishes a special vocabulary to these seven books. The student of Cæsar will find the difficulties of his author reduced to a minimum in this edition. (\$1.35. Ginn & Co.).

'THE Student's Manual of Exercises for translating into German, by A. Lodeman, A.M., (Putnam's) is intended for use with Brandt's German Grammar and is an excellent book of its kind. It will be remembered that Brandt's Grammar wisely gives examples from the German classics in illustration of its rules, and that again it wisely does not insist on the pupil's committing to memory too many rules, trusting to observation in reading and to practice in such exercises as Lodeman's for all necessary knowledge of the kind.—'SIMPLE Lessons for Home Use'—four excellent little pamphlets which have been very popular in England—are issued here by Thomas Whittaker. They are well worthy of attention. They are brief lessons on all sorts of subjects—birds, flowers, money, astronomy, the weather, cookery, clothing, food, physiology, etc., prepared by different authors, and all showing the right idea of a picturesque presentation of facts to attract the youthful mind.—GINN & Co. publish another of Miss Stickney's excellent text-books for children; this time a neat little primer, on the sentence and phonic methods for teaching sight reading.

TEACHERS who have used Prof. W. D. Whitney's larger German Grammar will rejoice to know that he has compiled from it a compendious manual designed for the use of junior students and beginners. (75 cents. Henry Holt & Co.) This 'Brief German Grammar' contains all the essentials of the larger work, together with working exercises based on the rules given. There are copious references to the larger work which will facilitate the transition from one to the other, and simultaneously enable the student to refer to the fuller statements and explanations found in the unabridged book. An experience of years with the latter has satisfied us that there is no better German Grammar—that it is the best, indeed; and this simplified re-statement of it, in abridged form, is the very thing that has for a long time been eagerly desired by teachers and home-students of German.

* Philistinism: Plain Words Concerning Certain Forms of Modern Scepticism. By R. Heber Newton. \$1.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.