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AND

GENERAL RECORD

OF

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THE EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE, 1887.

A NEW EDITION of this important Work is being pushed rapidly forward, and will be ready for press shortly. It will be nearly double the size of the last issue (1876), and will contain as usual an Appendix, in which Publishers may advertise their Books, School Furniture Manufacturers their Goods, School Stationery, &c., &c.

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ST. DUNSTAN'S HOUSE, E.C.

September 15, 1887.

THE autumn educational season is scarcely over when we are suddenly plunged into the serious business of the great winter trade. That this year it will be great is surely the hope of all who interest themselves in the production of new books or new editions. Last year there was slight ground for serious complaint as to the work accomplished, for many books of more than passing interest made their mark in public esteem, and are likely to keep their places for years to come. It would be unadvisable to attempt to foretell the fortunes of the coming season. As yet few publishers have sent out their lists of announcements, but most of these intimations may be expected to appear in our next (October 1) number.

There is every sign even now that, as usual, fiction will put forth extra numerical, if not vital, strength in the course of the ensuing season. Novelists, young and old, seem to have been exerting themselves vigorously during the long summer days, and the usual large and rather unequal harvest is already promised. Of the travellers who have to tell their stories of perils and adventures we as yet cannot say much; but it is understood that several of these works, the appreciation of which is happily extending, will put in an appearance. Of the tourists, who will describe anew very familiar scenes, it is safe to say that their pens have not been idle, so that continental hotel bills, stories of the extortions of guides, the rapacity of drivers, the insolence of customs officials, and other fear-waking warnings will be duly dignified in print and gilded boards. Books of more enduring solidity and substantial worth are on their way. Of these we may be in a position to speak in our next number. Meantime it is to be hoped that the approaching season will be good in every respect for authors, readers, and publishers.

CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPÆDIA.—Twenty years have passed since the completion of this ex-

tensive work of reference. In the interval the changes made in the text have been very important. Virtually the work has been regularly kept up to date in its information. We now understand that an entirely new edition is passing through the editorial department, under the supervision of Mr. David Patrick, M.A.; but it will be some time before the work comes before the public in its revised form. No change will be made on the plan adopted by the original editor, Dr. A. Findlater, or rather copied by him from the 'Conversations-Lexicon.' Much new matter, however, must essentially be introduced, as in all other works of reference which keep pace with Time.

THE CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS.—The arrangements for this assembly, which will meet at Birmingham on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of the present month, are now nearly completed. This meeting promises to be one of the largest yet held. Arrangements have been made for an excursion to Oscott on Tuesday, the 20th. On Wednesday, the 21st, the Great Western Railway Company will run a special train to Stratford-on-Avon and back provided a guarantee be given that seventy-five persons will join the excursion. On Thursday, the 22nd, the London and North-Western Railway Company will run a special train to Lichfield should the excursionists number one hundred. On the following day there will be an excursion to Althorp; the London and North-Western Railway Company will run a special train if the excursionists number a hundred. The committee have prepared a printed programme of the excursions. Messrs. J. S. Manton & Co. and Messrs. Smith & Wright have consented that their names be added to the list of manufacturers of the town who are to open their works to the members of the association during their visit.

DAILY LIGHT.—The popular books known by this title have been issued in a new red-line edition by the publishers, Messrs. S. Bagster & Sons (Limited). They may be had separately or in sets. The German calf and limp morocco bindings are extremely elegant and durable. Considering the remarkable success of these books as devotional aids, there should be no question of their additional popularity in these new and graceful bindings.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM NELSON.

It is with much regret that we announce the death of Mr. William Nelson, the senior partner in the firm of Thomas Nelson & Son, Edinburgh. Mr. Nelson died at his residence in Edinburgh on the 10th of September, at the age of 71 years. The house of Nelson, like all great houses, began in a very small way. In a small and quaintly picturesque corner, on historic ground, in the old city of Edinburgh, the late Thomas Nelson, the father of William, began business early in the present century. William was born in December 1816. At the High School, where he received his education, he carried off the gold medal, and subsequently had a distinguished career at college, although he did not take a degree.

The business soon expanded under the astute management of its founder, who is described as being shrewd, industrious, and thrifty—qualities that are often common to the Scottish character. William in due course entered the business (publishing had now been added) of his father, which, under his management and that of his brother Thomas, has grown to its present large dimensions. Branches have been established successfully in London and New York. At the very commencement of his publishing enterprise the founder of the house gave a direction to the style of its books, which has almost invariably been followed to the present time. Illustrations formed the chief attraction of the firm's early publications, as they do at the present time. Few great literary works have come from Messrs. Nelson's press, but many of their publications, such as 'The Schönberg-Cotta Family' and 'Land and the Book,' have had a popularity that is rarely met with in the publishing trade. The circulation of these well-known works, and the familiar A.L.O.E. series, has been enormous in all parts of the world. Books such as Michelet's 'Birds' and 'The Insect' are famous for their exquisite illustrations. Lately, by chromo-lithography the house has been particularly successful in the production of attractive children's books, which have long been a speciality in the establishment.

When the earlier Elementary Education Acts were passed Messrs. Nelson at once entered this wide field of keen publishing competition. Of the numerous series which they have issued for the use of schools the 'Royal Readers' have had an immense amount of favour among educationists, and for years have kept up their reputation. The school catalogue of Messrs. Nelson is now very extensive. If we mistake not, however, it is Mr. Thomas Nelson who looks after the educational portion of the business.

Some years ago the large place of business which Messrs. Nelson had erected at great expense at Hope Park, Edinburgh, was burnt to the ground, but in a very brief space of time, through the energy of the brothers, the large establishment at Parkside was built, and

has become one of the sights of the northern metropolis. There the visitor may acquaint himself with all the latest contrivances in the mechanical operations of book-making.

Mr. William Nelson was an enthusiastic traveller, and shortly before his death had made arrangements to visit Greece, in company with Dr. Walter Smith; but his medical attendants, aware of the seriousness of his last illness, intimated to him that he could not go. A benevolent and public-spirited citizen, Mr. Nelson was cut off in the midst of active work for the public good. His appearance was very familiar in his native city, and, as a friend has said, 'many eyes will grow dim when they read that William Nelson is dead.'

This same friend writes as follows to the *Scotsman*: 'A man of cultivated taste, Mr. Nelson had surrounded himself with many beautiful things, and his house is, perhaps, richer in china ware, and bronzes, and old marqueterie than any other in Edinburgh. He was a great collector, but as he made no display of his treasures, only his friends know how abundant those treasures are. His native town was very dear to him, and he was ever ready to forward its interests, though he shrank from taking any public part in the management of its affairs. But the stately pillars at the east entrance to the Meadows, and his beautiful restoration of St. Bernard's Well, bear witness both to his liberality and to his affection for our city; while his still unfinished work in connection with the Castle forms a still more costly monument of his desire to save what official barbarism had gone far to destroy. Doubtless it was his friend, Dr. Daniel Wilson, who drew his attention to the Argyll Tower and St. Margaret's Chapel, and the old Scottish Parliament House, but it was his own generous spirit that prompted him to restore them and to endure wearisome rebuffs of men in authority that he might have the pleasure of seeing the maiden fortress of Edinburgh in something like its pristine beauty. Mr. Nelson was a Liberal in politics and an earnest though not very prominent Free Churchman, open to fresh thought while adhering to old-fashioned habits of devotion; a man of solid worth and genuine piety. He had always been fond of travel; had visited most European countries, and crossed the American continent from New York to San Francisco. But though he had more than once hoped to visit Greece, he had always been disappointed, once by quarantine arrangements, and at another time by something as imperative. At last he seemed on the eve of accomplishing his purpose, and had all his arrangements to start with his family and another friend about the middle of September, when he was suddenly struck down with the fatal illness which has now carried him off.'

—♦—

THE INTERNATIONAL SHORTHAND CONGRESS.—This gathering will take place on September 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, and will conclude on October 1. The place of meeting is the Geological Museum, Jermyn Street, St. James's. Lord Rosebery will deliver the inaugural address. One of the chief occurrences at the congress will be the presentation of a bust of Mr. Isaac Pitman to his family. On Friday, the 30th, the members will be entertained at luncheon at the Mansion House, on the invitation of the Lord Mayor. Many very interesting questions relating to shorthand are entered for discussion at the meetings.

BOOK-BUYING.—'Enthusiasm like that felt by Lamb for the Elizabethan dramatists,' writes 'J. D.' in the *Illustrated London News*, 'is what is especially needed for the formation of a library. The buyer, if he have a strong bent in one direction, will satisfy that first. If history be his special study, the historians will figure most conspicuously; if theology, the theologians; if poetry, the poets. This is reasonable enough; but there is no branch of study that can be fitly pursued alone, and, after satisfying a special taste, the man who wishes to possess a good library should, in the first place, secure good copies of the greatest authors in all the prominent departments of literature which his country has produced. It is a disgrace to apply to a public library for books that deserve to be read and re-read. Fancy applying to Mudie's for a Shakespeare or a Milton, a "Don Quixote" or a Waverley novel, for Boswell's "Life of Johnson" or Lockhart's "Life of Scott"! However limited the book-buyer's taste or means, it especially behoves him, if bent on culture, to possess good library copies of the great poets and historians of his country. Poetry, apart from its intrinsic value as the most elevating and delightful of intellectual gifts, opens up many a fair path of literary study; and, without a knowledge of past history, a man is helplessly adrift when he attempts to steer through the conflicting currents of contemporary politics. But what can the student know of history or of poetry unless he have the books at hand upon his shelves for reference as well as for study? It may be possible to read a borrowed book with some advantage, but it is the pursuit of knowledge under great difficulties. You are limited in time, and you are not privileged, as Coleridge was, to make your notes on the margin as you go on. Almost always I decline lending, even my best friends, volumes which they ought to have in their own libraries; and, if I yield in a too easy moment, the probability is I suffer for my folly afterwards. The most honest people in the world have a peculiarity—they forget to return books. Let me end by repeating with more emphasis what I have already suggested, that the foundation of a library should be laid in early life. To see it grow by slow but sure degrees is a rare delight, and the boy who spends his "tips" in this way will, as he grows to be a man, spend more, until in the course of years he will gather around him a host of "never-failing friends."

THACKERAY'S LETTERS.*

It is well that Thackeray's English publishers have secured this volume in the author's native country. The revival of certain fugitive pieces from the pen of Thackeray, which came before the public in two substantial volumes some time ago, was strongly condemned in certain quarters; and, from a critical point of view, in comparison with the greater works of the author, the condemnation was just. But many of Thackeray's admirers are of opinion that all the productions of his splendid if variable fancy should be preserved. Our inclinations agree with the latter opinion. No better reason for this could be found than the volume before us.

When it was announced that a forgotten store of letters from Thackeray's pen had been cherished with care by some devoted friends not a few critics thought their authenticity doubtful. Now, however, it is indisputably proved that these letters, hailing from an American source, are the genuine creations of the master-mind. Here and there passages are to be found which are as bright and as playfully cynical as anything that ever came from his pen.

Mrs. Brookfield, who has had the honour to write the introduction to this collection, states that most of the letters were sent to her husband and herself during many years of intimate friendship. Happy, indeed, should be the home circle privileged by welcoming such bright effusions! Many of those quaint illustrations so characteristic of Thackeray's pen have been introduced. Allusions to the shining lights of the past generation are so numerous that we are again brought into contact with the social circles of the 'forties and 'fifties. Such revivals, apart from the remarkable individuality of the author himself, will be found delightful on account of their relations, personal and incidental. The volume must assuredly be placed permanently among the honoured list of Thackeray's collected works.

OUR HUNDRED DAYS IN EUROPE.†

'After an interval of more than fifty years, I propose taking a second look at some parts of Europe. It is a Rip Van Winkle experiment which I am promising myself. The changes wrought by half a century in the countries amount almost to a transformation. I left the England of William the Fourth, of the Duke of Wellington, of Sir Robert Peel; the France of Louis Philippe, of Marshal Soult, of Thiers, of Guizot. I went from Manchester to Liverpool by the new railroad, the only one I saw in Europe. I looked upon England from the box of a stage-coach, upon France from the coupé of a diligence, upon Italy from the cushion of a carozza.' This is only the opening of a charming chapter entitled 'A Prospective Visit,' which forms the bright prelude to Dr. Holmes' latest work. Of the record of his late visit he says, 'I begin this

* 'A Collection of Letters of W. M. Thackeray, 1847-1855.' London: Smith, Elder & Co.

† 'Our Hundred Days in Europe.' By Oliver Wendell Holmes. (London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co.)

record with the columnar self-reliant capital letter, to signify that there is no disguise in its egoisms.' After this admission the reader is carried irresistibly along with all the familiar fascination of humour and descriptive power which has made the author's name so singularly suggestive of honest amusement and elevating common-sense. Everything is described with pleasant liveliness, and retrospects and reminiscences of his visit half a century ago are introduced most harmoniously throughout the text.

Once across the Atlantic Dr. Holmes immediately begins his descriptions; Liverpool and Chester first, then London with its continued whirl of excitement. In London many of his old friends rallied round him, and new acquaintances eagerly sought the honour of his friendship. The descriptions of Epsom and Windsor are full of lively sense. 'Windsor Castle,' the author naïvely remarks, 'which everybody knows, or can easily learn, all about, is one of the largest of those huge caverns in which the descendants of the original cave-men, when they have reached the height of human grandeur, delight to shelter themselves.' The allusions to the famous visits to Cambridge, Oxford, York, and Edinburgh are gemmed with infinite jest. We notice that Dr. Holmes has not forgotten the incident at his installation at Oxford, when some young wit in one of the galleries inquired, 'Did you come down in the One Hoss Shay?' a question which, as may be imagined, aroused hearty laughter.

Dr. Holmes will receive genuine thanks from English readers for this pleasant account of his sojourn among them; a sojourn which was enjoyed quite as much by our countrymen as it seems to have been by the autocrat himself. As an addition to the list of wise and witty works 'Our Hundred Days' may rank even with the vigorous writings of Dr. Holmes' earlier years.

Notes and News

Messrs. John Walker & Co. announce some new volumes of their 'Miniature Golden Floral Series,' including 'Tam o' Shanter,' 'Homes of England,' 'A Lakeland Story,' and 'Home, Sweet Home.' This firm is also bringing out a new series of 'Christmas and New Year Booklets,' which are intended in some degree to supplant the complimentary cards exchanged during that season.

The *English Illustrated Magazine* (Messrs. Macmillan) enters upon the fifth year of its existence with the forthcoming October number. Among the list of promised contents for the new volume are a series of papers on 'Coaching Days and Coaching Ways,' by W. Outram Tristram, illustrated by Hugh Thomson and Herbert Railton; a monthly article on literary, social, and artistic matters, by H. D. Traill; and two new novels by Professor Minto and the author of 'Mehalah' respectively. Articles are also announced from Laurence Oliphant, James Sime, Thomas Macquoid, G. L. Seymour, H. Macallum,

H. Ryland, and Miss Margery May; whilst among the shorter works of fiction, contributions will be supplied by B. L. Farjeon, 'J. S. Winter,' and Mrs. Molesworth. Lastly, the editor has arranged with Mr. John L. Toole to write a paper on 'Personal Reminiscences of Charles Dickens,' and also for the publication of a series of 'Letters by Charles Dickens,' and early numbers of the magazine will contain poems by Algernon Charles Swinburne and George Meredith. The prospects of an enjoyable literary feast by subscribers to the new volume of 'The English Illustrated Magazine' therefore stand high.

We have been furnished with the awards of Mrs. Rose Mary Crawshay for the best essays in English, written by women on selected works of Byron, Shelley, and Keats. The prize-winners for 'The Witch of Atlas' are Margharita Daniels, first prize of £10; Henrietta Brown, second prize of £5. For the 'Adonais,' Rose Cundall, first prize, £10; Caroline Prynne, second prize, £5. For Byron's 'Prayer of Nature,' one prize of £5 to C. E. Montizambert. For 'Lara,' first prize of £10 to Annie Kniper; second prize of £5 to Gertrude Reinsberg. For 'Cain,' first prize of £10 to C. Stewart; second prize of £5 to H. F. Mitchell. For Keats' 'Eve of St. Agnes' one prize of £5 to F. M. Wilson. The essays on the fourth canto of 'Childe Harold' did not merit the prizes offered, and these were awarded as extra prizes for 'Adonais' to Alethea Phillips and Marian Robinson. Miss F. B. Melly, who carried off a prize last year, sent in an essay on 'Cain' this year, and we hear that it was so excellent that she would have taken the first prize had she not been disqualified by her previous success. An extra prize of £5 has, however, been awarded her.

'Vert de Vert's Eton Days, and other Sketches and Memories,' by A. G. Lestrangle, author of the 'Friendships of Mary Russell Mitford,' is announced by Mr. Elliot Stock for immediate publication.

A popular edition of 'Manners Makyth Man,' by the well-known author of 'How to be Happy though Married,' will be issued almost immediately by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin.

'William I. and the German Empire' is the title of a biographical and historical work by Mr. G. Barnett Smith now in the press. It will be published next month by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co. The author's previous studies in contemporary history and biography are widely known, and in the life of the venerable Emperor William and the foundation of the German Empire he has an interesting and popular theme.

The late Mr. Charles Walker, of Brighton, a well-known ecclesiologist, says the *World*, has bequeathed the whole of his library to the trustees of the Pusey Memorial Fund, with power to sell it for the benefit of their trust. Mr. Walker is said to have possessed the most varied collection of works on ritual in England. On the death of his aged mother a further sum of £500 will revert to the Pusey Fund.

A new writer, who is content to be known for the present as 'Q.,' has written a romance entitled 'Dead Man's Rock,' which will be published by Messrs. Cassell & Co. in a few days, in their series of adventure books which includes 'King Solomon's Mines,' 'Treasure Island,' &c.

Early in October Messrs. Hodgson will sell several thousands of popular modern works, the disposal of which is due to the removal of Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. to their new premises at St. Dunstan's House.

The Primrose League, through the Grand Master, the Marquis of Salisbury, has presented to the Queen a Jubilee volume, described as the biggest volume ever bound. It measures 18 inches across the back, weighs 30 lbs., and is filled with congratulatory addresses to her Majesty from the habitations of the League throughout the Empire.

We would remind our readers that the subscription list to the eleventh annual issue of 'The General Book Catalogue' closes on 30th September, and as we understand many booksellers in previous years have been disappointed by not subscribing in time, we would recommend an early application to the publishers, Messrs. Barnicott & Son, 44 Fore Street, Taunton.

Truth says:—'The Duke of Devonshire's magnificent library has now been concentrated at Chatsworth, with the exception of John Kemble's rare and splendid collection of plays, which was purchased by the late Duke in 1821, and which remains at Devonshire House. The library at Chatsworth is not only one of the finest in Great Britain, but it is also one of the oldest, and it includes the wonderful collection of scientific works which was made by Henry Cavendish, the celebrated scientist. A splendid illustrated catalogue of this library was printed some years ago, but only for private circulation.'

Shakespeare is not the only one who forbade posterity to move his bones. In a deep and dark recess among the sepulchral chambers of Sidon, on a splendid sarcophagus in black stone, the delvers of the Palestine Exploration Committee lately discovered an ancient Phœnician inscription which has been translated and appears in a Beyrout newspaper as follows:—'I, Talnite, Priest of Astarte, and King of Sidon, son of Eshmimazar, Priest of Astarte, and King of Sidon, lying in this tomb, say:—"Come not to open my tomb; there is neither gold, nor silver, nor treasure. He who will open this tomb shall have no prosperity under the sun, and shall not find repose in the grave."'

Messrs. Roper & Drowley announce for early publication a new work treating of the mounting of objects for the microscope, by T. Charters White, F.R.M.S. The same firm have in hand a practical guide to the working and efficient use of the instrument, by the author of 'My Microscope,' who writes under the *nom de plume* of 'A Quekett Club Man.' The latter volume will be profusely illustrated.

It will be remembered that some three or four years ago Mr. Ruskin republished, with facsimiled, but uncoloured illustrations, an anonymously written child's book of amusing verse, entitled 'Dame Wiggins of Lee,' which first appeared in 1823. Mr. Ruskin is silent as to the authorship, and as his copy no doubt bears the imprint of A. K. Newman & Co., of the old Minerva Press, Leadenhall Street, he naturally, but it now appears wrongly, credited the publication of the little book to that firm. The almost-forgotten original wood-blocks to 'Dame Wiggins of Lee,' and to many other children's books of the same series, have recently been found. The real publishers were Dean & Munday, of Threadneedle Street, from whom Newman seems to have been in the habit of purchasing special editions of what he considered their best—most saleable—publications, and, by arrangement, his name only appeared in them as publisher. It must have been one of these copies that fell into Mr. Ruskin's hands. 'Dame Wiggins of Lee' was written by a Mrs. Sharpe, sister of a grocer of that name in Bishopsgate Street; and the clever cuts—sometimes ascribed to Sir H. Brookes, of Hastings—are by R. Stennet, who illustrated for the same publishers two other stories for children, 'Deborah Dent and her Donkey' and 'Madame Fig's Gala.' We learn that a series of 'Forgotten Picture Books for Children,' to include those mentioned, with hand-coloured cuts from the original blocks, and an introduction by Mr. Andrew Tuer, is shortly to be issued in cheap form from the Leadenhall Press.—*Athenæum*.

Messrs. Ward & Downey will issue about the end of September a new three-volume novel by William Westall, entitled 'Her Two Millions.' Rita's new novel, 'Gretchen,' is announced for publication by the same firm next week.

Continental Notes

It appears (from an article in the St. Petersburg organ of the Russian booksellers and publishers, which is quoted and criticised in the *Leipzig. Börsenblatt*) that the book trade in Russia is strongly opposed to any kind of international literary convention. For some time the St. Petersburg booksellers have on various occasions brought pressure to bear on the Russian Foreign Minister, with a view of inducing him to obtain some modification in the Literary and Artistic Conventions between Russia and France and between Russia and Belgium. It was alleged that Russia had profited not one jot by these conventions, which were altogether onesided and only favourable to France and to Belgium. This was perhaps not unnatural five-and-twenty years ago, when the intellectual activity of Russia was yet in its infancy, and was obliged to borrow ideas from other people more rich in literary productions. Russian publishers consider that this period is at an end, and that it is unnecessary for

Russia to conclude any more literary conventions with any foreign nation or union of nations. One reason given for this conclusion is that property in literary productions is not at all clearly defined by Russian law, and that a literary and artistic copyright law must first of all be enacted before any steps can be taken to protect the rights of foreigners. The article in question, however, proceeds to state that even when Russian copyright has been legally defined, Russia will decline to give rights to foreigners. It will be interesting to learn what Russian authors think of the decision of the St. Petersburg publishers. Hitherto they have in many, if not in most instances received payment for the right of translating their works from French, Belgian, and even from German publishers, although no literary convention has ever been concluded between Germany and Russia. These satisfactory arrangements will in all probability soon come to an end, for, as everyone knows, the Russian Government declines to renew the convention with France and Belgium.

A Newspaper Museum has been founded in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle). Amongst the articles which have been recently presented to it are a collection of Salvation Army newspapers in English, French, and German, and the Jubilee numbers of the London illustrated papers, published on the occasion of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Much interest appears to be taken in the museum, and newspapers in all languages have been sent to it from the four quarters of the globe.

The principal article in the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* for September is one on the various editions of the 'Mayence Breviary,' the first dated edition of which appeared in the year 1474. The 'Mayence Breviary' is interesting on account of the primitive arrangement of the Church seasons, which, instead of being classed under the headings of winter, spring, summer, and autumn, as in the modern 'Roman Breviary,' have only two—winter and summer, the former running from Advent to Lent, the latter from Easter to Advent. Another important article is 'Peter Friedberg's Printing Press at Mayence,' containing an interesting descriptive list of Friedberg's productions between the year 1491—when he began business—and 1499, when death, or some unknown cause, terminated his active career as one of the best printers of that early period in the history of the art.

We have received the first number of *La Lecture* (Bureaux : À la Librairie Illustrée, Paris), a new French magazine, published at 60 centimes per number. The undertaking seems to have been suggested by our sixpenny monthlies; and it certainly does not fall short of them in the interest and variety of its contents. It opens with the first part of a new story by Paul Bourget (the author of 'Crime d'Amour'), called 'Madame Bressuire,' which promises well, and has in it some carefully drawn characters. Camille Flammarion contributes an article of great interest, 'Les Habitants de la Planète Mars,' and Alphonse

Daudet gives us, in 'Mon Premier Habit,' the first of a series of recollections of thirty years' life in Paris. 'Le Défilé,' a poem by François Coppée, a sketch of Prince Bismarck from a French point of view, and other stories and sketches by Jules Claretie, Paul Loti, and others make up an excellent first number of what promises to be a successful venture.

Obituary

TIMOTEO CIPARIN.—The death is announced, at the mature age of 82, of this distinguished Roumanian philologist. He was born at Panade, in Transylvania, in 1805. Ciparin was the author of a large number of important works in and on the Roumanian language, among them 'Elements of the Rouman Tongue' (1854), and a 'Roumanian Grammar' (2 vols. 1877). He also wrote on the 'Science of the Sacred Scriptures' (1854), 'Elements of Poetry' (1860), 'Elements of Philosophy' (1863), and edited the 'Archives of Philology and History.'

GIOVANNI GOZZADINI.—This Italian historian and archaeologist has died at Bologna in his 77th year. Count Gozzadini was author of a large number of works, the most important of which are 'La Vita di Armanciotto de Ramazzatti' (1835), 'Memorie per la Vita di Giovanni II. Bentivogli' (1839), 'Di ulteriori scoperte nella Necropoli a Marzabotto' (1870), 'Il Conte Giovanni Pepoli et Sixto V.' (1878). In 1871 he was elected to preside at the International Congress of Prehistoric Anthropology and Archaeology, which he opened with an important address on Etruscan remains in Italy.

EMMA JANE WORBOISE.—This lady (Mrs. Etherington Guyton) has, at the age of 63, died at Clevedon, a spot which had for her peculiar charms, and where she is said to have expressed the hope that she might end her days. She was born at Birmingham. Besides her numerous contributions to religious publications, Mrs. Guyton was the author of a 'Life of Dr. Arnold,' and numerous tales of a strongly evangelistic character. She had been connected with the *Christian World* as a writer for more than 37 years. The tales best remembered from her pen are 'Thornycroft Hall,' 'Nobly Born,' and 'Overdale.'

G. L. M. STRAUSS.—'The Old Bohemian' is dead! Few persons were better known in the literary and artistic circles of London. He had a strangely chequered life. One of the founders of the Savage Club, he was most intimately connected with metropolitan journalistic life and work. He was the Dr. Goliath in 'Mrs. Lirriper's Lodgings.' Latterly Mr. Strauss was an inmate of the Charterhouse, and a few years ago became an out-pensioner, although he continued his literary labours up to the time of his decease. In 1866 he went through the campaign in the war between Prussia and Austria and was present at the battle of Sadowa. After this he returned to

London, where nearly the whole of the remainder of his life was spent. In his 'Reminiscences of an Old Bohemian,' published a few years ago, he states that he traversed the whole of Germany on foot, walking to every German University from Königsberg in the extreme east to Heidelberg in the far west.

Trade Changes

We omitted in our last impression to notice an important alteration in the publishing trade which has recently occurred, namely, the change in the firm of Messrs. Ward & Downey following the retirement of Mr. Ward. Notwithstanding the fact that this house has been but a short time in existence, it has, as is well known, published some very important and enduring books. Mr. Downey has taken over the whole business, which will, as heretofore, be continued under the style of Ward & Downey.

The business of Messrs. J. & R. Maxwell, publishers, will in future be conducted by Mr. Spencer C. Blackett, the partnership between that gentleman and Mr. John Maxwell, junr., having been dissolved on August 31. Mr. Blackett, who was for many years a partner in the firm of Hurst & Blackett, announces that all the books enumerated in the catalogue of Messrs. J. & R. Maxwell, including Miss Braddon's works, will remain with him; and that it is his intention to improve the class of publications generally, by securing works by popular authors of the present day.

REALISM IN FICTION.

That realism exists to a very great extent in the current fiction of the day, and that it is rapidly increasing, we believe there are few who will not admit; but whether this realism is conducive to an increased healthiness of tone, or makes the book containing it of more absorbing interest to the reader, are questions that may be very profitably discussed.

During the last five decades fiction has made enormous strides (in quantity if not in quality); but realism is a very recent importation, and, like many other questionable benefits, we are under an obligation to our lively Gallic neighbours for its presence amongst us. During the infancy of the present popular style of fiction very little realism was to be found; but on the introduction of translations of some of the lighter French novels, publishers and authors began to find that the British public, or, we should say, a certain portion of it, took very kindly to the literary food which was relished with so keen a zest by the frequenters of the Boulevards de Paris. From this time realism began to make its appearance in our fiction, and rapidly established itself as a permanent feature in our literature; and now the question that arises to the lips of the most ordinary observer is, What have we gained by its adoption?

We are sadly afraid that the answer must be, Very little. We have no intention to individualise authors or books, but we think we may safely say, without fear of contradiction, that many authors have made a name and a com-

petency for themselves by describing, in all its minutest detail, some repulsive scene of horror or loathsomeness, who, had realism not found so many patrons, would have floated along the tide of life unknown, and at last have ended their career in that oblivion from which their facility for describing all that is worst in human nature, and dragging out, to a terribly painful degree, mankind's most unlovely characteristics, has enabled them to emerge.

Were all realistic writers such as these, the reply to the question would be very simple; but that they are not we fully admit, for we find many men of noble minds and honest aspirations who purposely dwell on the loathsomeness of vice, stripping it of all its gaudy trappings and tinsel, to show us, bare in all its hideousness, the bones of the skeleton, that the reader may not err through ignorance, and that he or she may know the horrors that exist on the stage behind the fascinating and resplendent drop-curtain. These are the men to admire, and, before we pass a sweeping condemnation on realism as a whole, we would do well to consider if the lessons taught by these writers may not counterbalance the evil done by those who, for the sake of gain or popularity, produce those meretricious works which all right-thinking people must condemn.

Realism may, then, be divided into two classes: the one which simply has for its object the sale of a book and the consequent gain to author and publisher; and the other which is written with the praiseworthy object of showing vice in all its hideous deformity as a warning and a vigorous moral lesson. The latter class has also the merit of holding up very frequently to ridicule one of the most detestable failings of humanity, namely, hypocrisy.

It is interesting to note the changes in works of fiction that have been wrought by the introduction of the realism of the modern school. Half a century ago the novelist relied principally upon stirring historical events for the groundwork of his plot. Taking some well-known and momentous period, he introduced his hero into the midst of the exciting actions of the times, and very often made him play an important figure in them, associating him with generals, statesmen, or politicians whose names were already enrolled in the world's book of fame. Of course there was a heroine, or 'walking lady' as a dramatist might style her, whose part generally consisted of suffering innumerable misfortunes, sometimes brought about by the sternness of an unrelenting father or uncle, and at others by the machinations of the villain of the plot, but at all times patiently borne, with a resignation and meekness truly amazing in these days of self-assertion. Love, however—that inexhaustible treasure, which has ever been the theme of romancists, dramatists, and poets since the first days of literature, in all countries and in all ages—love for the hero always supported her in the hour of trial, and eventually the stormy waters were passed and the weather-beaten craft, with Cupid at the bow, entered the harbour of peace, hero and heroine were united, and amidst the joyous acclamations of the good characters of the story—the evil ones by this time having generally been sent to a far region to expiate their many sins, and of course mainly by the instrumentality of the hero—the author's task was finished and the reader laid down the book with a sigh of satisfaction. In this school may be included Sir Walter Scott, past grand-master of his art, G. P. R. James, whose descriptive powers

have been rarely equalled, and never surpassed, and a few lesser lights, many of whose works are read with pleasure at the present time.

After, and in some cases contemporary with these works, were published novels of a lighter calibre, dealing principally with military or naval affairs, and which found ready and eager readers in those whose souls were still thrilled by the recent glorious deeds of Nelson, Napoleon, and Wellington.

In all these works there was a decidedly healthy and vigorous tone; the hero was ever pictured as a moral, noble-minded creation, who loved truth better than life itself, and although many of the deeds ascribed to him were impossibilities, yet the error was on the right side and tended to increase the admiration felt for deeds of valour and uprightness. The heroine was always the quintessence of virtue and modesty, although upon some occasions given to using strong language; and altogether the novel, if we except the fact that the hero had generally managed to extinguish before the end of the story the lives of a score or more of fellow-beings, was healthy in tone; vice was always mercilessly punished and virtue triumphant.

In time authors began to think the people were jaded and wearied with this purely melodramatic ending, and in some cases we find the hero and heroine are not meted out the reward both they and the readers might naturally expect, the succour arrives too late, or the help is too feeble; but yet, if not rewarded for their constancy upon this mundane sphere, the readers are never left in doubt as to the ultimate fate of those in whom they are so deeply interested.

When the public was becoming satiated with this style of fiction another school of authors sprang up, and in this school we find the first indications of realism, as the term is generally accepted. The authors of this school we may class as domestic novelists. These writers did not turn over the pages of history for the principal events of their stories, but contented themselves with picking out some anomalous condition of society, some fact of science, or some strange freak of nature, and around the one fixed point contrived to weave a web of strange and startling events which increased and multiplied with every chapter of the book until the last, when with a few scratches of the author's pen the mystery vanished, the existence of the fixed point was explained, the clouds were all cleared away, and the story was ended. Other authors there were who, not relying on nature, philosophical truths, or social anomalies, made a starting-point of their own; a theft, a robbery, a forgery, or the secret frailty of one of the female characters sufficed, and by enshrouding these in mystery, which they afterwards cleared away, introducing a strong element of love, a sequence of desperate and often very transparent acts of villainy, they built up what they were pleased to style a novel and floated it upon the world, trusting to either forcible language, minute description of some odious plague spot, or, worse than all, the sayings and doings of a notorious courtesan disguised under a feeble *alias*, to give the worthless creation of a morbid mind a notoriety which otherwise it would never have gained.

It may easily be supposed that the latter class of writers eagerly welcomed the advent of realism of the coarser and more worthless description into the realms of fiction. We had already accepted one sort of realism at the hands of Dickens and George Eliot; but very different from their style

was that brought into fashion by the translations of Zola, Daudet, and Flaubert. In Dickens and George Eliot we find realistic authors of a praiseworthy and honoured type, who when they stoop to describe the minute details of vice bring the whole weight of their powerful intellects to bear upon it, not for the purpose of painting it in glorious colours and decking it out with tawdry robes and tinsel crowns, but showing it up as it really and truly exists. In their works we find no queen enthroned whose sceptre is her bold beauty or brazen shame, but we find the victim or follower of vice meted out a just reward. No tinsel or mock-regal robes here; on the contrary, we find a Nemesis closely at hand, and although, true to nature, they may for a short space allow vice to triumph, and its votary to step on the first rung of the ladder leading to power and riches, she is quickly dragged back and hurled into the slough of despair, dying of hunger, clothed in rags, or, worse than either, dragging on a weary existence, her mind racked with remorse, her beauty faded, and all her surroundings adding an unerring point to the moral lesson sought to be inculcated. Could the authors of this day follow the worthy steps of the two we have named the answer to the question we asked at the commencement of this article might be easily given; but we fear there are few, if any, of those whose works now flood our circulating libraries who would not acknowledge themselves far, very far, the inferiors of the two great practical moralists who, writing books not only for gain but also with a noble object, have won for themselves the admiration of the whole of the civilised world.

In running over a list of those authors of the present day who have developed a talent for realistic writing, we find a few humble disciples of George Eliot and Dickens, but we find many others whose works cannot claim to be written with any object of elevating or purifying the minds of their readers.

During the last few years the works of these men have increased to an enormous extent, and if a check were not speedily placed upon them, it would be impossible to guess the amount of mischief that might be wrought.

The men of this type dispense almost entirely with plot, and plunge headlong into the thick turgid stream of vice, dragging forth from its muddy reeking depths a creature of the lowest and most filthy description. This creature is made to serve as the centrepiece of the story, around which all the events to be described and the characters to be introduced revolve. In the majority of novels the creature is of course a woman (if we may give the honoured name to one so vile and so horribly repulsive, and be forgiven); sometimes she belongs to the aristocratic circle and mixes boldly and fearlessly, even aggressively, with the belles and beaux of *le haut ton*, with whose habits the author always professes to be perfectly acquainted, although in many cases, if his presumption is justified, we think he has little to be proud of. At others she is 'a child of the people': an ignorant, vulgar, wretched thing, whose sole recommendation is a pretty face or a voluptuous figure. In either case the course of the story is much the same. This creature wades through social filth and mud of every description, the composing atoms of which are carefully exposed and analysed for the benefit (?) of the public. She floats gaily along on the tide of prosperity, surrounded by those whose one object seems to be to contribute to her

pleasure and magnificence. On she rides on the summit of her triumphal chariot, envied by all her sex, and worshipped with a blind fatuity by her admirers. Her chariot becomes a kind of Juggernaut car, and we are shown the votaries throwing themselves recklessly beneath the wheels, to be dragged away crushed and maimed for life when the procession has passed. Through the whole of the book we are treated with a description of the triumphs and conquests of this loathsome creature, who is very often raised at the end of it to a position of power and honour.

This is the class of writing we condemn, and we are certain all must agree with us in doing so. By thus raising a creature whose whole object in life is revelling in vice, by lingering fondly over the description of these revelries, by describing minutely the wiles and artifices by which a woman raises herself to riches and power, and by making a worthless wanton or a shameless courtesan the centre object of interest in his story, the author takes upon himself a heavy responsibility, and it will be well for him if, with a clear conscience, he can give a good account of his stewardship.

What, then, have we gained by the adoption of realism? The answer is, that as yet we have gained but very little, but that it may be the medium of inculcating great moral truths in the future we cannot doubt. The reception accorded to Zola's 'La Terre' is a lesson which it would do well for our English realistic writers to take to heart. The public is becoming tired of filthy and loathsome descriptions of vice, it is becoming tired and surfeited with details of the inner lives of those whose names we would not have pollute the lips of our wives and daughters; but still, if written with a noble and pure object, they are willing to submit to the nauseous medicine, that is only administered to prevent or cure a worse disease. If this is once thoroughly understood, that we *tolerate*, for its ultimate object, but do not *enjoy* realism, we think there is little doubt that our libraries and bookstalls will soon have upon their shelves a collection of books honestly written by those authors of a purer type, whose efforts we must all appreciate, and that the others will cease flooding an ungrateful public with their nauseous and coarsely written stuff.

Reviews, &c.

From **Mr. J. W. Arrowsmith (Bristol).**—'Dead Men's Dollars,' by May Crommelin. The title of this excellent story has little to do with its contents. The dollars of the dead men, when recovered from the sea, are the means of enabling the hero to keep a promise to his sweetheart, and that is all. This same sweetheart, Vilette Jones by name, is the most interesting character in the book. A short essay might profitably be written on the type of womankind, fickle, feeble, and false, that she represents. But we think Miss Crommelin is scarcely consistent in her delineation, absorbing though it undoubtedly proves, and it is hard to imagine the soft, insinuating young girl of the earlier part of the story developing into the bold, vindictive woman of the latter portion. But perhaps the fault is our own. We had thought from the first indication of Vilette Jones that the authoress was about to portray

another and more subtle type of character, and we were disappointed when our anticipations were not realised. Anyhow, the story is an extremely interesting one, and, allowing for a little improbability here and there, and a few errors in knowledge, is one of the best the authoress has yet written. This to those who remember 'Brown Eyes' and 'Queenie' will appear matter of no slight praise; in the present instance it is thoroughly well deserved.

From **Messrs. George Bell & Sons.**—'An Egyptian Princess,' by Georg Ebers. It is not everyone who possesses the power of Professor Ebers to convey facts of history in such pleasant forms as to charm and instruct at the same time. The work in its original form has reached the fourth edition, and is now very faithfully translated into English by Emma S. Buchheim. It constitutes one of 'Bohn's Novelists' Library.'

From **Messrs. Blackie & Sons.**—Mr. G. A. Henty has done good work before in the education of boys by writing stories that convey some knowledge of history, but in 'The Sovereign Reader: Scenes from the Life and Reign of Queen Victoria,' he now enters more directly into an educational sphere. The book is designed for the upper classes in schools, and, like all that this author has written, gains much from the robust healthy vigour of the style. For the purpose for which it is intended it should be found of much valuable assistance.

From **Messrs. Burns & Oates.**—'Claire Vaughan,' by Lady Lovat. This is an interesting and, in some respects, affecting account of a good woman's life, her trials, temptations, and experiences. It is more especially addressed to Roman Catholics, but possesses elements of attraction for all readers. The work is very tastefully and elegantly bound, and its general appearance and 'get-up' reflect much credit on the publishers.

From **Messrs. William Collins, Sons & Co.**—These publishers have issued a new and revised edition, with grammar and analysis, of the Fifth and Sixth Books of 'The Improved Illustrated Reader.' The contents of each volume have been selected and arranged with discriminating care, and will undoubtedly be of service for scholastic purposes. The exercises in parsing and composition are useful. Both volumes maintain in a high degree the reputation for efficient educational works which this firm has acquired.

From **Mr. Dennis, Scarborough.**—'Cooper's Walk to Rome.' Mr. A. N. Cooper, of Christ Church, Oxford, occupied five weeks in a tramp from Yorkshire to Rome, a distance of 744 miles. He landed at Rotterdam and made his way through Antwerp, Brussels, the Ardennes, and the Vosges to Strasburg; thence by way of Basle, over the St. Gothard Pass, to Milan, Bologna, Florence, and so to the Eternal City. 'A Walk to Rome' makes an interesting little book, of which a third is devoted to preparations for the journey, which may make it the more useful.

From **Mr. John Heywood.**—Few among the many works issued by this publisher in connection with the Manchester Jubilee Exhibition furnish so thorough a tribute of interest as 'The Booke of Olde Manchester and Salford,'

by Alfred Darbyshire, F.I.B.A., edited by George Milner. The matter is not only attractive in itself, but gains materially from the many illustrations of old streets and buildings supplied by the author. The book is admirably printed, being in every way worthy of this town.

From **The Librairie Illustrée**, Paris.—Maizeroy, 'Amours de Garnison.' M. René Maizeroy is well known as the writer of some exceptionally smart stories. 'Amours de Garnison' is a collection of eighteen stories, such as might have been told at an officers' mess. They are elegantly and even poetically told, and not extravagantly spiced for officers' quarters. Indeed, the 'Dot de Thérèse,' which sets before us the privations endured by a widowed officer in the endeavour to lay up a dowry for his only child, is a pathetic story which might be read aloud in any company.

From the **London Literary Society**.—'Passions Subdued,' by Louisa Lacy. There is scarcely enough substance in this story to render it interesting to the majority of fiction readers, but no doubt some of the quieter and more unworldly will be found to turn over its pages. Albeit a little old-fashioned in style and at times slightly wearisome from its recital of commonplace events, the story is a fairly readable one, and is perfectly harmless from beginning to end.

From **Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co.**—A wide circle of readers will warmly welcome a new work from the pen of the author of 'Frank's Rancho' and 'An Amateur Angler's Days in Dove Dale,' two books which gained extensive popularity, chiefly on account of the tuneful charm of their tone, their quiet touches of humour, and their gentle descriptions of country life. 'Frank's Rancho,' it will be remembered, took the reader far west to the majestic 'Rockies,' telling a tale of the adventures and settlement of 'our boys' under the shadows of the great mountains. The writer's new book, 'Fresh Woods and Pastures New,' will remind readers more of the 'Amateur Angler' than the traveller in America. It is a curious little volume, describing many scenes of rural life in such a way as to make one think the title peculiarly appropriate, and that is saying a good deal. The book is by no means devoted exclusively to the delights of fishing, although many scenes by the water-side come within the range of the author's descriptions. Relating to fishing incidents, 'Osterley Park on a Bank Holiday' is a most amusing chapter.

'Osterley Park Lake,' writes the author, 'was besieged on Bank Holiday by a small army of, say a hundred, piscators, all armed to the teeth. Their sport was not the most exhilarating; but everybody knows what British perseverance means: it is exhibited alike among the Afghans of Asia, the Zulus of Africa, and on the banks of rivers and lakes in old England. On entering the park I was guided in the direction of the lake by perceiving in the distance (at very frequent intervals and forming nearly a circle) small columns of blue smoke curling upwards, which, on approaching nearer, I found to arise from the hundred enthusiastic anglers. Every man Jack of them had a pipe in his mouth, and was smoking away as if in obedience to a law of his master, the venerable Izaak Walton.'

The raciness of many of the accounts of anglers' experiences is not absent in the sketches of rural and domestic life generally. Such letters as those which treat of the curiosities and delights found 'In a Suburban Garden' are very charming, and anyone who happens to open the volume at the last chapter, 'An Evening with the Hornets,' will be sure to go back and begin at the first page of the book. This chapter reminds us of the story of the victorious regiment following up the enemy. The commander was suddenly alarmed by a hasty flight of his men towards the rear. Completely broken up, on they sped in full retreat. Was it the enemy? No, it could not be. Shouts to the men brought them together again, when it was found that the heroes of a hundred fights had fled before the onslaught of a nest of hornets which a soldier had rudely disturbed with a stab of his bayonet!

From **Messrs. Macniven & Wallace** (Edinburgh).—Readers who are purposing a visit to Copenhagen for the first time will probably glean a few useful wrinkles from 'Ignorants Abroad,' by 'One of Them.' This may seem a somewhat uncomplimentary remark—to the readers of course—but we should none of us be above taking a word of advice. The writer of this little pamphlet spent ten days in Copenhagen, and he has recorded his experiences very agreeably.

From **Messrs. Moffatt & Paige**.—Two volumes of 'Moffatt's History Readers' have come to hand. They deal respectively with 'Early England' and 'Modern England.' Both subjects are treated in an interesting and, so far as we have been able to detect, accurate manner, and we have little doubt that for the purpose of education they will meet with general approval. Each volume is profusely illustrated with maps and other engravings.

From **Messrs. A. N. Myers & Co.**, 15 Berners Street.—'Gymnastic Exercises without Apparatus,' by Dr. Mathias Roth. This little volume furnishes a full description of 'Ling's System of Exercises,' now extensively imported into this country from Sweden. It has reached a seventh edition, a fact which in itself testifies very forcibly to the popularity of its teaching. The directions are given in clear, easily comprehended language, emphasised where necessary by good illustrations, and to those who desire to improve their health and physique by exercises we could hardly recommend a more suitable volume.

From **Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier** (Edinburgh).—Two additional volumes of the 'Popular Shilling Series' have reached us in the shape of 'Bits about America,' by John Strathesk, and 'Scenes and Sketches of Fisher Life in the North,' by an Old Fisherman, with an introduction by the Author of 'Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk.' The former volume supplies some interesting information relating to our American cousins, their cities, churches, manufactures, schools, libraries, and newspapers, while the latter furnishes a highly graphic account of the ways and customs of fisher-folk in the north. Both volumes form very appropriate additions to the series.

From **Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co.**—'Robert Moffat, the Missionary Hero of Kuruman,' by

David J. Deane. This is an interesting little work, giving in simple and unambitious form an account of the deceased missionary's labours in South Africa. To those who have not the opportunity of reading more extended books on this subject, it should prove a source of pleasurable gratification. Numerous illustrations accompany the text and give added interest to the narrative.

From Messrs. Isaac Pitman & Sons.—'The Bibliography of Shorthand,' by John Westby-Gibson, LL.D., comes as a surprise, even to those who know how bibliographical works expand in these days, when information must be readily placed before inquirers. This bibliographical work will be invaluable—in fact, indispensable—to students or casual investigators into the history of that most useful accomplishment, which has become an essential part of the business life of civilised countries. The list of books in the present instance has been carefully collected from England, the Colonies, and America. With such a book in his hand, no one frequenting the Readers' Room of the British Museum could fail to find out all that is worth knowing regarding the rise and progress of shorthand in all its changeable aspects.

From the same.—A unique little volume is published by this firm in the form of 'The Book of Common Prayer, printed in Phonography.' The style used is simple and easily intelligible. No doubt by those beginning to learn shorthand the work will be greatly appreciated.

From Messrs. George Routledge & Sons.—The new volume of the 'Pocket Library' consists of 'The Book of Humour, Wit, and Wisdom.' It is an admirable compilation of good stories, witty anecdotes, and clever table talk. A vast number of authorities have been laid under contribution in the collection, and the result is an intensely amusing little volume.

From the same.—'Paul Clifford' has now been added to the 'Pocket Volume Edition' of Lord Lytton's novels issued by these publishers. Printing, paper, and general finish alike maintain their high reputation for excellence. When the character of the previous volumes is considered, this, it will be conceded, is no light praise.

From the same.—'Sparks of Wit and Humour,' by M. Quad ('The *Detroit Free Press* Man'). The author has led a singularly varied life, having, he tells us, been successively compositor, fire-

man, miner, soldier, sailor, and author. The contents of this volume are the results of his experience in these capacities, plus a certain amount of intensifying and very humorous exaggeration. The book is full of laughs from beginning to end.

From Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co.—'A Naughty Biography' is characterised by a certain amount of vigour. Beyond this there is nothing to chronicle regarding it. The title would appear somewhat unwarranted.

From the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge we have received the latest instalment of its deservedly successful 'Penny Library of Fiction.' The new story, which carries the original design of vivid but pure story-telling, is entitled 'A Terrible Inheritance.' The author is Mr. Grant Allen.

From Messrs. Swan Sonnenschein & Co.—A fourth instalment, in a blue cover, has been issued of 'Queer Stories,' by the late E. C. Grenville Murray. These, like the previous issues, are distinguished by a lively piquant style and much attractive humour. The two stories which strike us as being the best of the present volume are 'The Hanging of Martin Dadso' and 'Arrears of Masses,' the latter being especially clever, but all are light, dainty, and appetising.

From Mr. Elliot Stock.—Some months have elapsed since the publication of the first part of 'Romano-British Remains,' appearing in that valuable series the '*Gentleman's Magazine Library*,' edited by Mr. George Laurence Gomme, F.S.A. We already have had an opportunity of speaking of the work, and are in a position to repeat favourable comments in speaking of Part II. of 'Romano-British Remains,' which now lies on our table. Now that archæology has been raised to the dignity of a science, it is right that these old records of discoveries should be preserved in some more accessible form than the manifold old volumes of the '*Gentleman's Magazine*.' Scientists of to-day will find the whole of the archæological portion of this 'Library' something more than interesting. Those who have given their adherence to new and special modes of classification and to new judgments as to origins will find amusement in the perusal of some of the statements, but personal knowledge will enable them to find the true conclusions of modern investigation and speculative thought.

Index to the Books published between September 1 and 15.

The Words in Italics are those under which the Titles are given Alphabetically in full, with the Publisher's Name.

After School Days, a Story, *Goodwin* (C.) 5s.
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 They are not intended to be general, or to express any opinion on the literary merit of the books; the sole object being to
 explain the title-page, or to give such additional information concerning the nature of the work as may appear to be
 required. All books are in cloth when not otherwise described.

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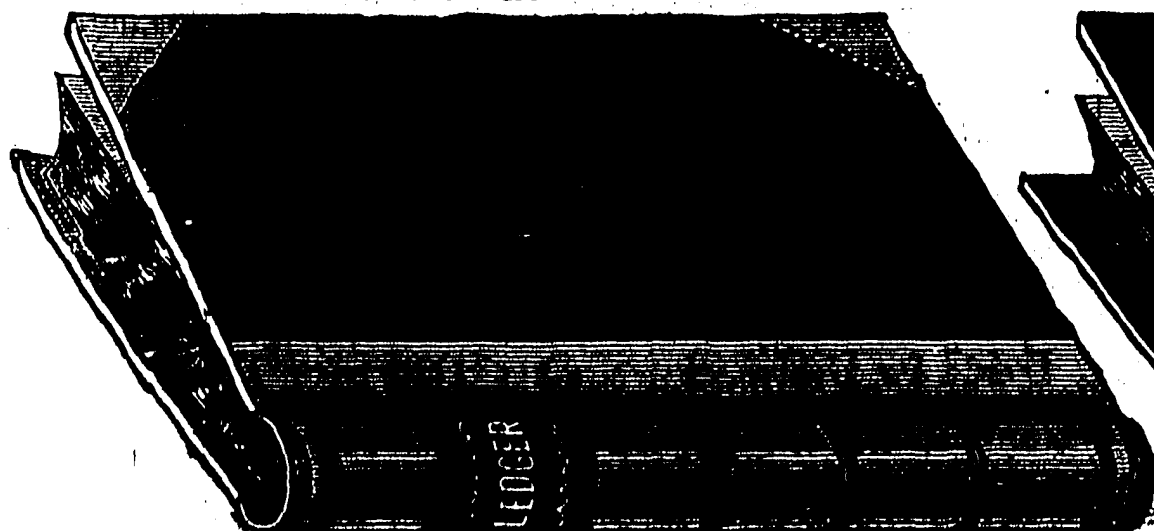
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 Edinburgh Medical Journal. Jan.-June 1861
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 London Medical Record. 1880. N.S. No. 5
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