

which runs from the Theseum (!) and the railway station on the west to the Royal Gardens and the Square of the Constitution on the east, we found our hotel, the Hôtel des Etrangers, looking out upon the green trees which are a relief to the eye after the glare of the surrounding streets. An excellent room was ready for us, and we arranged to stay for a week, paying a sum equivalent to £1 a day for both of us; this charge including lodging, meals, and attendance."

And so on, as if nobody had ever been in Greece, through 110 pages, at the end of which the Muse, as in duty bound, gets the Doctor by the hair and extorts from him a full page of such music as the following:

"Farewell to all the classic land,
The fame-encircled Attic strand;
August Athena's matchless fame,
Colonus 'mid the olive plain!"

—a catalogue raisonné of everything he saw in Greece, with the one virtue the diary has not—that of brevity.

The author has been at the trouble to print a bibliography of travel in Greece which hardly justifies his book, and a time-table of steamers in Greece, of which he remarks the absence in the guide-books. If he had learned the reason of the absence, viz., that the times of sailing are continually changing, so that tables are of no use beyond the season, he would have been spared another appendix even more useless than his bibliography. Appendices, when they are added to a book that is worth having, have sometimes a permanent value, but nobody publishes a book for the sake of the appendices, and nobody is likely to carry Dr. Sandys's book to Greece for the sake of his.

On Teaching English. By Alexander Bain. D. Appleton & Co. 1887.

THIS work is supplementary to the author's textbook on rhetoric. He says that the great principle of teaching is to call the pupils to account for "the matters actually imparted in teaching"; and he would confine the art so closely to mere instruction and examination, imparting and extracting in turn, that he strenuously objects to original composition, and hardly tolerates paraphrasing as a means of teaching our language. He prefers a minute criticism of passages from writers of reputation, and recasting them, not for the sake of change of vocabulary and phrase, but only to better them or show that they cannot be bettered. He objects, also, to the use of our standard authors, and has a special antipathy to Bacon and Shakspeare, to read whom is, in one of his expressions, "to abolish the three intervening centuries." The greater portion of the volume is occupied with a precise criticism of several poems of our literature, with a view to illustrate how they should be used in teaching English; and Prof. Bain also tries to define poetry. More inept criticism, greater practical misconception of the methods of the poet, and a more indifferent blindness to his point of view, we have not met with in a book from so eminent a hand. The power of suggestiveness is to him only feeble obscurity, and at all points he requires a dryness of intellectual light which leaves only the facts of experience as scientifically discerned and ready for tabulation. Such a writer naturally prefers Wordsworth's "Skylark" to Shelley's, and seems to think that even then too much is made of a very small bird; and one is not surprised to find him citing the more rhetorical parts of Pope with thorough satisfaction. A good example of his poetic incapacity is the analysis of Dryden's "Ode on St. Cecilia's Day," in which his judgments are ludicrously inapplicable, as when he seriously refers to the "necessarily humble character of Jubal's original shell" as a reason why his brethren could not have been so much affected by its "celestial sound" as Dryden represents. But the critic reaches his acme

when he describes the magnificent last line of the ode, figuring the trumpet-blast of the Last Judgment—

"And music shall untune the sky"

—as "obscure or insufficient."

For ourselves, we decline to accept Sir Arthur Helps as "completely superseding" Bacon, even in the single essay on "Business"; we cannot think Shakspeare will be sufficiently known by our youth through quotations from him in other books; original essay-writing seems to us to have a value in education, and the extracting by examination matters imparted by an instructor strikes us as a narrow view of the office of the pedagogue; and as for poetic criticism, commend us to some other professor, and preferably to one who will not cite "In Memoriam" as an attempt "to disparage geology," or remark, apropos of Goldsmith's famous line, that "much more than a breath is necessary to make princes and lords."

Grundzüge der Meteorologie. Die Lehre von Wind und Wetter. Von H. Mohn. Vierte verbesserte Auflage. Berlin: D. Reimer. 1887.

MOHN'S 'Meteorology' may be characterized as an eminently safe book. The author is Professor of Meteorology in the University at Christiania, and director of the Norwegian Meteorological Institute; he holds a distinguished position as an investigator of observed phenomena, and, jointly with his colleague, Prof. Guldberg, has contributed several papers to the deductive and mathematical study of atmospheric movements. His book, therefore, presents a view of the elements of meteorology as seen from the higher level of advanced knowledge, and consequently has nothing in common with compilation text-books, which are written, as it were, from the under side of their subjects. The paragraphs on the constitution and movements of cyclones may be referred to as good illustrations of mature and conservative views. On the other hand, the style of the book is rather too authoritatively didactic for our modern conceptions of the best teaching. It would suit very well those teachers who depend on the text-book for their knowledge of the subject; their students could memorize and recite page after page, and thereby harmlessly acquire a large body of good facts. It would also suit those rare teachers who use a text-book only as they use a dictionary, and make up the work of the class from their own knowledge. But the average teacher, who needs from the text-book some assistance in his method of presentation, as well as some addition to his store of facts and definitions, will find this book rather too hard for him: his scholars will be instructed, but not trained; they will learn something about meteorology, but they will not learn how to learn anything more. In short, Mohn's book is so good that it needs a good teacher to use it.

The recent supply of valuable works on meteorology is remarkable. Buchan of Edinburgh has revised his 'Text-book' in his article in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica'; Scott, of the British Weather Service, has a volume on 'Elementary Meteorology' in the 'International Scientific Series'; Van Bebber, of the German Weather Service at Hamburg, has prepared an exhaustive work on weather prediction; Sprung, lately a colleague of Van Bebber's, now engaged in the Prussian Meteorological Institute at Berlin, has written an admirable text-book of dynamical meteorology; and Ferrel, lately a professor in our Signal Office, has completed a volume on 'Recent Advances in Meteorology,' to which his earlier researches led the way. The allied subject of climatology has two works—one, by Hann of Vienna, than whom no one is more competent; the other, by Woeikoff of St. Petersburg, originally in Russian, and now translated into Ger-

man. The ambitious meteorologist is well supplied with books, provided only that he can do what all ambitious students must do—read German.

Life of John Colet, D.D. With an Appendix of Some of his English Writings. By J. H. Lupton, M. A., Submaster of St. Paul's School, and formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. London: George Bell & Sons. 1887. Pp. xiv, 323.

MR. LUPTON has already made his own all that pertains to Colet; his successive editions of the Dean's works before unpublished, from the 'De Sacramentis' in 1867 to the 'Opuscula' in 1876, having done as much as anything to make Colet something more than the shadow of a mighty name. This 'Life' is thus a fitting close to the series of Mr. Lupton's publications in the same field. As a biography it is disappointing on account of the exceedingly meagre material available, and the strange uncertainty which attaches to many features of Colet's life. Indeed, it is part of the value of Mr. Lupton's work that several of the certainties of Knight and other biographers are resolved into uncertainties under the analysis of his profounder research. Thus he shows that the commonly accepted opinion that Colet was educated at St. Anthony's School and at Magdalen College (an opinion advanced without qualification in the 'Britannica,' we notice) rests upon little more than conjecture. It is strange that the contemporaries of a man who so strongly impressed himself upon his age should have permitted important facts of his life to fall into such obscurity; the pious effort of Erasmus to embalm the memory of his friend accomplishing little, owing to English indifference.

The book is written in all scholarly soberness. The full learning of the author on all the points he touches makes his occasional conjectures always plausible and suggestive. For the most part, however, he is content to show what is known, and to leave the unknown with no guesses about it. When he does undertake a Cuvier-like restoration at the hint of a fragment, he sketches extinct forms with the hand of a master. Life at Oxford at the close of the fifteenth century, for example, rises before the reader vividly. On the ground of strict relevancy to the subject, there may be thought to be something too much of such affluent illustration of a possibility—four pages of description of Florence, for instance, her teachers, philosophers, and preachers follow the supposition "if his [Colet's] steps were really turned to Florence" (p. 50); but one in search of pleasant and instructive reading will advance no objection on that score. The great school which had its birth in the Dean's foresight and generosity and love of learning, remains his best memorial. In striking contrast with certain founders of our own day, who thought that wisdom would die with them, is the long look into the future taken by Colet in the statutes of St. Paul's: "Notwithstanding these statutis and ordinancis," is their closing section, "in whiche I have declarid my mynde and will, yet because in tyme to cum many thingis may and shall surwyne [supervene] and grow by many occasions and causis, which at the makynge of this boke was not possible to come to mynde, . . . I leve it hooly to theyr dyscrecion and charite, I mean of the Wardens and Assistences of the Fellowship, with such other counsell as they shall call unto theme, good litterid and lernyd menne, they to adde and diminish unto this boke, and to supply in it every defeaute, and also to declare in it every obscureite and derknes, as tyme and place and just occasion shall requyre." His famous Convocation sermon, given in full in the appendix, reminds one,

in its fearless plainness of speech and direct stroke, of Luther and Savonarola, and would alone make good Green's assignment of Colet to a place among the Reformers before the Reformation.

The Shaybacks in Camp. Ten Summers under Canvas. By Samuel J. Barrows and Isabel C. Barrows. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1887.

THESE unwearied campers have spent all but one of their ten summers on the shore of Lake Memphremagog; and by going always to the same spot, and storing utensils and conveniences from one year to another, they appear to be as well provided for residence there as one would be in a country house. It is not camping of the old-fashioned kind, with discomforts and make-shifts unexpected and innumerable, of which perhaps the chief use is to remind us of our civilization; but, quite the contrary, the "Shaybacks" progress instead of barbarizing, and end their first decade with a steam-launch and a substantial well-chinked log hut, to say nothing of hammocks for pews during meeting time. The volume which they have published contains the history of this evolution, and is brightened by some anecdotes of mild adventure, principally in navigating the steam launch; but its value lies in the hints and explicit advice it gives in regard to family camps, and its account of how this particular camp conducts its domestic and foreign affairs. The success of "the Shaybacks" is beyond question, and Lake Memphremagog seems to be an admirable spot for further experiment in the process of returning to savage life and re-emerging from it. Perhaps it would be as well to start with a steam-launch and a log hut, and see if one could not work up to hired stokers and a French cook. The book is agreeable reading, though its adventures are, as has been said, of a mild order, and its reflections have just the tenuity that consists with the absolute nirvana of a true camp life.

Prose Pastorals. By Herbert Milton Sylvester. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1887.

SUMMER volumes which describe the life of nature have become very common of late, and they betray a tendency usually either towards the specialty of natural history or the generality of an Emersonian reflectiveness. Mr. Sylvester has the Emersonian characteristic, but it has a poetic rather than philosophic turn, and does not interfere with his giving his readers a very natural picture of the old home of his boyhood, a farm somewhat to the southward of the White Hills, in the midst of scenery and homely tasks dear to the New England heart. The author's own honest and unrestrained pleasure in his recollections, his attachment to the homestead and all the doings of his young life there, make the pleasantest quality of the book. There is next to nothing of character and no human nature except his own in the pages; but he has the artist's eye and the fisherman's infatuation, and gives us still life and speckled trout in about equal profusion. A definite portion of the volume is devoted to angling in the White Mountains, which may be of some special interest to brothers of that craft; but the atmosphere and the scenes of the remainder are in one general tone, almost a monotone. Were it not for a forest fire, with its aftergrowth of blackberry-vines, a swamp which one thinks would have rewarded further exploration, and an admirably described boyhood ride to the market-town in the small hours of the night, with all the morning changes of light, mist, and sound, the volume would have had no more variety than a succession of summer days in the quiet country it makes poetical.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Appleton, G. W. A Terrible Legacy. D. Appleton & Co. 50 cents.
Bacon, Prof. E. F. Leitfaden zum Erlernen der deutschen Sprache. Clark & Maynard.
Barbey d'Aurevilly, J. Le Théâtre contemporain. Paris: Fräzine; Boston: Schoenhof.
Bolscher, G. Mme. de Sévigné. Paris: Hachette; Boston: Schoenhof.
Bridgman's Indexed Map of the Environs of New York City. E. C. Bridgman. \$4.

Confessions of a Society Man. Belford, Clarke & Co. Delitzsch, Prof. F. A Day in Capernaum. Funk & Wagnalls.
Field, P. B. Canvas Canoes: How to Build Them. Forest and Stream Publishing Co. 50 cents.
Garlanda, F. The Fortunes of Words. A. Lovell & Co. Gilman, A. Historical Readers. 3 vols. Interstate Publishing Co. 36, 48, 60 cents.
Haggard, H. R. Allan Quatermain. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co.; New York: Geo. Munro.
Henderson, J. L. Bemis, A. A. Municipal Police Ordinances. Robert Clarke & Co.
Hugo, V. Things Seen. Harper & Brothers. 25 cents.
Johnson, Virginia W. The House of the Musician. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 50 cents.
Johannot, J. Ten Great Events in History. D. Appleton & Co. 63 cents.
Leffingwell, J. The Mystery of Bar Harbor. G. W. Dillingham. \$1.
Littell's Living Age. Vol. 53. Boston: Littell & Gay.
Lyall, Edna. In the Golden Days: A Novel. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
Marlitt, E. The Old Mam'selle's Secret. New ed. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 25 cents.
McClure, J. The Environment: A Story of Modern Society. Funk & Wagnalls.
Mead, T. H. Horsemanship for Women. Harper & Brothers.
Meyer, C. F. The Monk's Wedding; A Novel. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. \$1.25.
Morrison, G. B. The Ventilation and Warming of School Buildings. D. Appleton & Co. 75 cents.
O'Reilly, Rev. B. Life of Leo XIII. Chas. L. Webster & Co.
Peterson, H. Bessie's Six Lovers. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros. 50 cents.
Pierston, E. De L. Society Verse by American Writers. Benjamin & Bell.
Pike, C. L. A Dateless Bargain. D. Appleton & Co. 30 cents.
Reese, Lizette W. A Branch of May: Poems. Baltimore: Cushings & Bailey.
Renan, E. Discours et Conférences. Paris: Calmann Lévy; Boston: Schoenhof.
Richard the Third and the Primrose Criticism. Chicago: A. C. McClure & Co. \$1.
Riddell, Mrs. G. E. Miss Gascoigne: A Novel. D. Appleton & Co. 25 cents.
Robinson, F. W. 99 Dark St. Harper & Brothers. 15 cents.
Sachau, Prof. E. Alberuni's India (A. D. 1030). London: Tribner & Co.
Sauts, E. Mr. Incaul's Misadventure. Benjamin & Bell.
Schuler, J. Letzte Gänge. 2d ed. Stuttgart: W. Spemann; New York: Westermann.
Simon, Jules. Victor Cousin. Paris: Hachette; Boston: Schoenhof.
Spence, Exell and Neill. Thirty Thousand Christian Thoughts. Vol. V. Christian Dogmatics, Concluded. Funk & Wagnalls. \$3.50.
Spencer, Mrs. G. E. Dennis Day, Carpet-Bagger. G. W. Dillingham. 50 cents.
Swinburne, A. C. Select Poems. Worthington Co. \$1.50.
Thackeray, W. M. The Fitz-Boodle Papers. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 50 cents.
Tidy, Dr. C. M. The Treatment of Sewage. D. Van Nostrand. 50 cents.
Tolstol, Count L. Ivan Ilyitch, and Other Stories. T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
Tolstol, Count L. N. Sebastopol. Harper & Brothers.
Vasili, Comte Paul. La Société de Paris: I. Le Grand Monde. Paris: Nouvelle Revue; Boston: Schoenhof.
Verne, Jules. Nord contre Sud. Ire partie. Paris: Hetzel; New York: Chiswick.
"V. R." A Novel. Harper & Brothers. 15 cents.
Yonge, Charlotte M. Under the Storm; or, Steadfast's Charge. Thomas Whitaker. \$1.50.

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