

attempts made at various times on the life of Louis Philippe, by Fieschi, by Lecomte, by Joseph Henri (names now forgotten with the exception of the first). There are curious pages on the prisons of the men condemned to capital punishment; on the Duc de Praslin, one of Hugo's colleagues in the House of Peers, who killed his wife and poisoned himself in prison before his trial could take place. There are visits to the Conciergerie, which evidently furnished documents for the 'Misérables.' The general sentiment in all these notes on prisons and on criminals is the same: it is a feeling of pity, of indulgence, of forgiveness. This sentiment found an eloquent expression in the verses which Hugo sent to the Duchess of Orleans, when he asked for the pardon of a republican called Barbès, who had shot a policeman in cold blood in the streets. Alluding to the unfortunate death of the Duke of Orleans and to the age of the Comte de Paris, who was then an infant, he ended thus:

"Grâce au nom de la tombe! grâce au nom du berceau!"  
Barbès was pardoned by Louis Philippe, at the request of the Duchess.

There are not many details on the littérateurs of the time. One day, however, Hugo meets Béranger: "a round red face; an eye full of vivacity; long gray hair; sixty years old and more; a good and smiling mouth; an old frock-coat; a large Quaker hat." They walked together a little while (it was in 1847), and Béranger complimented Hugo in these terms:

"'You have done well,' said Béranger to me, 'to be content with the popularity which one can regulate. I have a great deal of trouble to withdraw myself from the popularity which carries you with it. What slave is there like the man who has the misfortune to be popular in this fashion? Look at their Reformist banquets! They kill me! and I have the greatest difficulty in the world to avoid them. I make excuses: I am old, I have a bad digestion, I never dine out, I cannot alter my rule, etc. Bah! You owe it to yourself; a man like you must pay this forfeit, and a hundred others in the same way. I am exaggerating, eh? Nevertheless, one must smile and put the best face on it. Ah yes! but that is merely the part of a court jester. To amuse the prince, to amuse the people—the same thing. Where is the difference between the poet following the Court and the poet following the crowd? Marot in the sixteenth century, Béranger in the nineteenth; but, *mon cher*, it may be the same man! I do not consent to it. I lend myself to it as little as possible. They make a mistake about me. I am a man of opinion, and not of party. Oh, I hate their popularity. I am very much afraid that our poor Lamartine is going in for this popularity. I pity him. He will see what it is! Hugo, I have some common sense. I tell you, be content with the popularity you have; it is true, it is real.'"

He told how in 1829, when he was in prison for his songs, there was no reader of the Liberal papers who did not think he had a right to come and visit him in his prison:

"'Let us go and see Béranger.' They came. And I, who was in the mood to muse upon the silliness of poets, or was seeking for a refrain or a rhyme between the bars of my window, was obliged, instead of finding my verse, to receive my hosier!"

On their way, they arrived before the door of the Tuileries, where Victor Hugo was going, as it was the day of the French Academy:

"'Won't you go in?' said I to him.  
"'O no, indeed—this is for you.'  
"'And he ran away.'"

which have come under my observation do not seem consistent with his theory. I knew very little of the witch-hazel, and up to three years ago should, if I thought of it at all, have laughed at it as a folly and delusion. We wanted very much a well on our place, which is near the sea, rocky and barren. It is impossible to dig to the depth of more than two feet anywhere near our house without striking the ledge; and as any well must be drilled through the rock, it was hard to decide where to begin operations with no indication to guide us.

At the solicitation of a neighbor, we sent for a man of local reputation with the wand to examine our premises. We half laughed at ourselves for doing this at all; and, indeed, I am not ready now to say that I believe, but neither can I quite say that I disbelieve. He came, and we saw the bending of the twig in his hands. The man, whom I will call "T.," has no particular faith in the hazel. He says any bitter wood will produce the same results. He found water, or rather promise of water, in two places. In the spot nearer the house, he said he should get it at a depth of from eighteen to twenty feet. We asked on what he based this estimate, and he said that on retreating from the place (say A) at which the twig, by pointing downward at a right angle with the surface, indicated the presence of water, it would turn at a constantly varying angle, always pointed to that place, till he reached a position at which it made the hypotenuse, or part of the hypotenuse, of an isosceles right-angled triangle; and the distance on the surface from A to that position showed this depth. Now, on your correspondent's theory, how would fatigue affect the position and motion of the hands, making the twig turn in a different direction when he retreated?

We let the matter drop at that time, but the next spring we corresponded with "T." He offered to dig the well on either of the spots, he had marked, by the day or by the foot, at a certain price for either. We were very incredulous, and proposed to him to dig and drill at his own risk—to be paid a fixed sum if he succeeded, nothing if he failed. We hardly thought he would agree to this, but he accepted promptly, naming a comparatively moderate sum, which we were quite willing to pay could we have the water. In the course of the summer he came, bringing with him a man, two horses, a large machine for drilling, and a portable furnace. Various accidents to his machinery delayed him. Sometimes he had to send four miles for repairs—once, forty miles to replace a portion of his machine. Nothing really discouraged him. "T." was on the place more than two weeks, and it was impossible to doubt his entire belief in himself. His assistant had entire faith in him, said he had worked with him for two years, and had never known him to fail to find water where he had begun a well. At a depth of about five feet water began to come in. He said this was only the "light vein," which he always expected to precede the main flow, and went on with his drilling. At a depth of eighteen feet water began to come in freely. At something over nineteen feet he left off. We occupy the place only a few weeks in the year—less than three months—and the well has not yet borne the test of a long summer's use in a dry season; but the flow seems abundant.

"T." has since dug several wells in the vicinity—so far as I know, with success. I advance no theory, nor do I seek to combat any, but if I wanted another well and could get hold of "T.," I certainly should follow him and his wand. Of course a man who has spent many years in finding water will have a better knowledge where the water is likely to be found than the average man.

Your correspondent, if he has not already seen it, may be interested in the account in the "Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research" of their investigation of the subject. MAINE.

## Notes.

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS publish immediately Daudet's 'Belle Nivernaise' in the first English version of that amusing story; 'Happy Home Studies for the Young,' and 'Wide Awake Stories for the Young'; and a Life of Buffalo Bill, by Henry L. Williams.

T. Y. Crowell & Co. announce translations of Tolstói's 'My Confession' and 'Que Faire (What to Do)?'

Benjamin & Bell have in press for speedy publication 'Sea-Spray; or, Facts and Fancies of a Yachtsman,' by S. G. W. Benjamin.

The publishers of Ignatius Donnelly's 'The Great Cryptogram; or, Lord Bacon's Cipher in the so-called Shakspeare Plays,' will be R. S. Peale & Co., Chicago.

The Froebel Society, whose Secretary should be addressed at the office of the *Journal of Education*, 86 Fleet St., London, offers prizes to the amount of twenty guineas for the best essay on "The Ethical Teaching of Froebel, as gathered from his Works." Essays, not to exceed in length 7,500 words, must be forwarded as above, with a motto, the writer's name being enclosed in a sealed envelope, by November 1.

Mr. A. F. Bandelier, who has for many months been deep in Mexican historical archives, has returned to Santa Fé, bringing literal copies of more than 600 manuscripts, many of which were totally unknown.

G. P. Putnam's Sons have published the *Journal of Social Science* for June, containing the papers read at the General Meeting of the American Association at Saratoga last year, with the customary synopsis of proceedings and the programme of the meeting appointed at the same place for September 6-10, 1887.

We have received the *Journal of the Shakspeare Club of the University of North Carolina*, containing a lecture and a paper and a record of proceedings—all showing a lively interest. Ladies are not admitted to membership, but the experiment of inviting them on special occasions has been tried with success. In the discussion of "Othello" we observe that the color question was brushed aside with a "Remember that, though a Moor, he was not a negro." Whether "Othello" has had its share of representation on the Southern stage, we can only conjecture.

From Charleston comes an agreeable little 'Historic Sketch of the Parish Church of St. Michael, in the Province of South Carolina,' by George S. Holmes. This edifice has suffered many indignities from man and the elements. Its bells were carried to London by the British in their evacuation of Charleston in 1782, but were recovered. In the civil war they were taken to Columbia for safety, and were burned with the city after Sherman's passage. The fragments were sent to London to be recast—by the successors of the original founders, "of the same amalgam, and in moulds made with the same trammels"—and had to pay duty on reëntering the country, though Congress finally made restitution. The church plate was destroyed or dispersed at the same time and place, and only partly recovered. The church, meantime, was all but knocked to pieces in the bombardment of Charleston, and plundered on the occupation—among other things, of a pulpit ornament, "I. H. S.," inlaid in ivory, restored by a Northern clergyman, who had "no place for them in his church." The cyclone of 1885 blew down several feet of the spire, and the earthquake a year later caused the steeple to set-

## Correspondence.

### THE MAGIC WAND AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I have been much interested in Mr. Stille's letter in the *Nation* of July 14, but the facts

tle eight inches, besides doing other damage to the amount of thousands of dollars. Mr. Holmes's narrative is very minute, remarking the change from pounds to dollars in the church's accounts in 1803, and the disuse of the town-hall function of the church in 1832.

The twelfth volume of the Ninth Census contains the second part of Surgeon Billings's report on the Mortality and Vital Statistics of the United States, and is accompanied by a portfolio of plates and diagrams, though these are also freely used in the text. The loose plates in question display curves of survival and of expectation of life in sundry States and cities, with some British comparisons. A colored group-map of the United States, showing twenty-one grand physical divisions, forms the basis of the discussions of this volume. Thus, in the section on deaths from cancer, the group diagram proves the Southwest Central region to be most exempt for females, both white and black, and a reference to the map locates this region in Arkansas, Northern Louisiana, and Eastern Texas. There is also a general colored map for cancer, as well as for diphtheria (which is very thoroughly treated), consumption, heart-disease, the accidents of birth, etc., etc., from which the most curious and instructive conclusions are drawn at a glance. For instance, it appears that New England got so used to being "left out in the cold," in the old slavery days, that she can now point to the largest number of deaths from old age. It is graphically shown that May, June, and July are, in this country as in Europe, the suicidal months *par excellence*. No attempt has been made to construct a life-table for the United States as a whole, but this has been done for certain cities and for the States of Massachusetts and New Jersey. An excellent index guides the inquirer to any part of this admirable collection of statistics.

A paper on the Medical Mythology of Ireland, by Mr. James Mooney of the Bureau of Ethnology, read before the American Philosophical Society in April last, has been extracted as a pamphlet, and is a very curious and interesting study in folk-lore. These beliefs and customs are, as the author puts it, not "half-forgotten superstitions raked up out of the past," but are treated "as living realities, for such they are in fact." The influence of fairies, of the evil eye, of the blessed wells, and of miscellaneous charms, are illustrated by numerous examples, the witnesses or believers in the effects wrought being living Irish of to-day. We have no space to quote in detail these curiosities of superstition, of which many are peculiar to the Gaelic race, but some have their analogues among uncivilized people the world over. Doubtless persons seriously interested in such studies could procure copies from the author, by whom additions, corrections, and exchanges are desired.

In strong and brave contrast to the foregoing is 'A Brief Review of the Operations of the Home Department in connection with the Cholera Epidemic of the 18th-year of Meiji (1885),' a scientific publication by the Government of Japan. It is a clear and concise account of the suppression of the epidemic imported in Nagasaki, and Mr. Nagayo Sensai, the Director of the Sanitary Bureau, is to be congratulated that this happy end was due to his intelligent sanitary measures being carried out, and especially to the inspection and quarantine being enforced, and, as he expresses it, "at the proper time." We believe Japan is the only nation where a sanitary bureau is a direct part of the central government, and we are in no position to speak patronizingly of a people whose interest in and regulation of the public health are so sagacious and effectual. The Report is beautifully illustrated by a colored map, and by many tables and graphic charts.

It is one of the hopeful signs for the physical

and indeed the moral progress of the race that hygiene, that the way to live properly, is beginning to be carefully taught in the schools and probably to be discussed in the homes of youth. Many of the sins against life are those of ignorance; and when ignorance is dispelled, rectitude, corporeal and otherwise, is easier. As we have from time to time noticed in these columns, the new books on this subject are of every quality, those of the best order being few. But among the very best is Dr. E. M. Hunt's 'Principles of Hygiene' (Iverson, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.). However carelessly the subject may be taught by the use of such a volume as this, it is impossible that some valuable information should not be implanted, to grow, it may be, into a personal tree of life, redeeming what otherwise would be a physiological desert.

A large part of Dr. Hugo Erichsen's 'Cremation of the Dead' (Detroit: D. O. Haynes & Co.) is a jumbled recital of disjointed conditions wherein suicide by fire, punishment, sacrifice, and the irregular as well as systematic burning of the dead are confused. This is not history, and the author shows an imperfect appreciation of the gravity and importance of the subject in using these loose data as though they belonged to it. His desire (and a very praiseworthy one it is) is to spread the practice of cremation among the serious and influential classes; but these will not be inclined towards it by finding the original Topheth lying in the direct line of historical ascent, whether it was, as he suggests, a perpetual pyre for the disposal of the dead (Isaiah xxx, 33), or whether the valley of Hinnom acquired its notoriety as 'the place for the young "to pass through the fire to Molech" (2 Kings, xxiii, 10). The objection to cremation is almost entirely sentimental, and the association of discordant ideas should be carefully avoided. We fear this little volume, undignified in tone and tangled in method, although setting forth many indisputable truths as to its sanitary advantages over burial, will make few converts for the better way that is struggling for recognition.

"Thousands of young girls who, for various reasons, cannot ride in winter, have every summer within reach horses quite as good as the average of those at city riding-schools, but which they are never allowed to mount." In their interest Mr. Theodore H. Mead has, in 'Horsemanship for Women' (Harpers), prepared, on the basis of Baucher's 'Méthode d'Équitation,' an attractive and instructive little book. He is an enthusiast as to the intelligence of a horse, and he will probably arouse enthusiasm in the most of his readers, who, by closely following his simple directions, may have the double pleasure of teaching both their horses and themselves accomplishments hitherto unsuspected. It is probable that the author lays too much stress, as Baucher himself did, on the line of the head being perpendicular; but the general drift is in the right direction.

An excellent memoir of the late Dr. Jonathan Mason Warren of Boston, who died in 1867, has been prepared by Howard Payson Arnold and printed for private distribution. It is a somewhat tardy account of the third distinguished physician, in direct line, of that name and place; and, perhaps because it is belated, will be more welcomed by those who loved and respected its subject, and who may have feared that no competent biography would preserve his record for posterity.

The *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for July opens with an article on Japan by Mr. Russell Robertson, British Consul at Yokohama, and for twenty-five years a resident of the islands. It is packed closely with geographical and industrial facts, and fairly bristles with statistics. He refers especially to the enormous increase of the

tea crop, the amount exported last year being 28,000,000 pounds, mostly to this country. There are 458 miles of railway in operation, and 7,000 miles of telegraph lines. The newspapers are numerous; one, the *Crier* (*Yomiuri Shinbun*), has an annual sale of 4,600,000 copies. Another British Consul, Mr. D. R. Peacock of Batum, contributes a paper on Upper Georgia, comprising the districts of Batum and Kars. He speaks despondently of the prospects of the country, the land barely sufficing to support its present small population. Referring to the ancient ruins, he says, "there is scarcely a valley or a hill where one does not discover the remains of either a fort or a church"; but there are no evidences of roads, canals, or public buildings belonging to the age of the builders of these ruins. Exception should be made, however, in favor of bridges, for there are some of stone still standing, "with one or several arches of remarkable durability as to workmanship, and of exquisite beauty in style." There is a slight sketch of Dr. Junker's travels, accompanied by a very striking portrait of the explorer.

The great work undertaken in 1855 by the late Francesco Cerroti (a remarkable example of Italian erudition and versatility), a 'Bibliografia di Roma,' is about to begin to be published in the year of his death, by Forzani & Co. of Rome. It will make four quarto volumes in double columns of admirable typography, the works enumerated being classified under six heads—the physical history of the city coming last. The titles are frequently accompanied by critical or analytical accounts of the contents. The price will be twenty lire per volume.

Among the official announcements of decorations that were to be conferred by the French Government on the national holiday, July 14, was the name of Louis-Marie-Julien Viaud, *lieutenant de vaisseau* of twenty years' service, thirteen of which were at sea. He was to receive the cross of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, and is the author known under the name of Pierre Loti.

The new phase in the international novel is the publication in French of original works by American authors. Mr. F. Marion Crawford made a brilliant beginning with his 'Crucifix de Marzio,' in the *Nouvelle Revue*. How real a success this was, is shown by the publication immediately afterwards, in the *Journal des Débats*, of a new story by him, 'La Marchesa Carantoni,' which was begun about July 1.

—The *Atlantic* for August contains a very seasonable article upon Charles Reade, called out by the extraordinary memoir of him lately published. Its author, Mr. E. H. House, lived with Mr. Reade and Mrs. Seymour at various times between 1863 and 1873, "often for months together," and is well fitted to supply some of the corrections of which the memoir stands so sadly in need. He rightly thinks that the characterization of Reade from "the most authentic sources" is false and ridiculous. Incidentally he dwells upon Reade's fondness for Americans, and upon his own Americanisms of manner, and upon all the more amiable and manly traits which were often so swallowed up in Reade's bumptiousness as to be almost incredible, so far as the public could judge. But after this attempt at a more discriminating and life-like portrait, he devotes his space to the two main points of Reade's relation to Mrs. Seymour and of his so-called plagiarisms. He confirms the statement that the attachment of Reade and Mrs. Seymour was a pure one; but his view of Reade's course when Mrs. Seymour decided to live with him, after her husband's death, differs widely from the biographer's. He thinks nothing was open to Reade but to marry her, and utterly rejects the defence offered that Reade could not