

ary at hand." On what principle this short vocabulary has been constructed, it is impossible to say. Most of the words it contains are neither unusual, nor technical, nor agricultural, while many words belonging to one or the other of those classes, and which occur in the text, are not inserted in it. Thus, on the first page of the vocabulary, we find the words: accumulated, alienated, alleviate, alliance, animated, artificial, avail, with their ordinary dictionary definitions, while, to mention a single instance, the word "granules," used in a technical manner, occurs on page 19, but is not contained in the vocabulary.

Mr. McKay has evidently read a good deal about geology and agricultural chemistry, and has inserted a large amount of high science in his book, much of it entirely beyond the capacity of the pupils of public schools, and all of it in a crude, undigested state that renders it of little value to anybody. It is somewhat singular that the book, though intended to be used as a text-book, and therefore presumably to secure a somewhat extended circulation, contains no indication of being copyrighted.

The second book on our list comes from Mississippi. It was prepared in pursuance of a request of the Board of Trustees and of the President of the College. It is a 12mo of only 118 pages, printed in rather large type. It is surprising how much clear and useful information the author has been able to condense into this narrow compass. Whatever restrictions may have been really imposed upon him by narrow limits, he has yet had the skill, so agreeable to the reader, to seem always to have room enough to say all he wanted to and in the way that suited him. Of course, the treatment, as a whole, and of particular subjects, is particularly adapted to the extreme South; but the book may be read with pleasure and profit by any one interested in agriculture in any latitude. As an example of Prof. Gulley's skill, we would mention his treatment of the subject of fertilizers. The different kinds, their chemical composition, the special advantages and best manner of using each sort, and their market value, are all treated in a manner apparently full and complete. From some passages we infer that Prof. Gulley has for some years been manager of the farm connected with the Agricultural College, that he has availed himself of his opportunities for experiment, and that he has a keen eye not only for scientific, but also for pecuniary results. Although he does not expressly mention the subject, yet it is easy to see that he does not regard the exhaustion of the cotton lands of the South as either necessary or imminent. With the spread of intelligence, and the improvement in the methods of cultivation, there is no reason why the production of cotton should not be increased and indefinitely prolonged.

A short glossary of agricultural terms is appended to the work.

Science Sketches. By David Starr Jordan. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1888. 8vo, 276 pp.

THIS volume is made up of a number of unconnected sketches and addresses on such varied subjects as the natural history of fishes, the biography of naturalists, an ascent of the Matterhorn, and the evolution of the college curriculum in America, with an appendix giving a bibliography of the author's contributions to scientific literature. Three of the articles are printed for the first time, and the others, which have appeared in various periodicals, have been more or less revised.

The papers make no pretence to literary

quality, and are of various degrees of merit. Naturally, those relating to Prof. Jordan's favorite animals, the fishes, are the most interesting and possess the most value. That on the salmon family easily stands first. Naturalists will be grateful for the kindly review of the life and work of the veteran naturalist of Cuba, Felipe Poey, and the sketch of the less lovable, more erratic, and ever enthusiastic Rafinesque. The account of the ascent of the Matterhorn is well told, and will attract the attention of readers adventurously inclined. The paper on the evolution of the college curriculum adds little to what has been said by others, and suffers from a discursiveness which somewhat obscures its aim. The bibliography of Prof. Jordan's writings will have a high value for ichthyological students, and gives the little book a permanent value which would not have been insured by the articles that constitute its text.

Memoirs of an Arabian Princess. An Autobiography. By Emily Ruete, née Princess of Oman and Zanzibar. D. Appleton & Co.

THIS book derives not a little of its charm from its faults. Its style is artlessness itself, which we would by no means hold a defect except as it leads the writer into the prettiest self-contradictions and inconsistencies. Yet the very inconsistencies reveal a true consistency and truthfulness in the book, since they stamp it as the unaffected narrative of a life divided into two strangely opposite halves—one part led in the secluded home of the Sultan of Zanzibar, the other as a German wife, mother, and widow. The ex-Princess writes throughout as one whose intellect had become convinced of the immense superiority of European civilization to that of the Arabs, yet whose heart clung fondly to the customs of the land of her childhood. Hence come her defences of the Mohammedan practices of polygamy, of slavery, of the seclusion of women, in all of which we get a better idea of her loyal affection for her home and kindred than of her ability intelligently to discuss such important social questions. The book professes to be written primarily for her children, and its body of simple reminiscences bears out this profession admirably. Upon a thread of personal experience she has strung a series of highly interesting accounts of the social and religious customs of the Arab nobility. Add her own remarkable adventures, told in a delightfully because unconsciously egotistic manner, and the whole makes a book which ought to attract many readers. The grosser literary blemishes are due, we suppose, to the translator, the 'Memoirs' having been originally written in German.

The Enemies of Books. By William Blades. Revised and enlarged by the author. A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1888.

THIS latest issue of "The Book Lovers' Library" is a very entertaining little volume, in which the destroyers of books, elemental, human, or vermicular, are very properly made the object of anathema. Fire and water have had their share, but they have been merely no respecters of persons, and Livy was to them no more than the Parthenon or Baia. Worms must have their food, beetles and rats and flies and servants and children may all plead some excuse of nature for their havoc, and against such lifeless things as gas and heat, mould and moss and ivy, it would be foolish to be intemperate; but the great destroyers of books seem rather to have been bigotry, ignorance, and neglect, and the sins of the last are the

deepest in dye. Many of the stories told here seem incredible, but some of them are only too familiar; and so far as the old books are concerned, the manuscripts and "the fifteeners," it is to be suspected that it is rather the enormous rise in their money value than any respect for learning which has put a stop to the carelessness which was their lot up to the last quarter of a century. Clergymen now will not cut off margins to use for note paper, nor librarians consign Caxtons to the grate, or leave them to rot in the rain; but it appears that collectors of woodcuts or engravings, title-pages and colophons, maps and portraits, still tear old books to pieces, and even cut the illuminated initials out of manuscripts, to add to their museums. Many curious anecdotes, nevertheless, are told by Mr. Blades of ignorance and negligence in recent years, and those interested in books as such will find pleasant reading here, together with some valuable suggestions about the care of books. This library has not given to "book lovers" a volume which belongs to it by better right.

The United States of Yesterday and of Tomorrow. By William Barrows, D.D. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1888.

THIS book is pitched in a somewhat old-fashioned key. It has the twang of the Fourth of July oration of the days before the war. The length of our coast-line, the size of our rivers, the extent of our territory, the numbers of our hogs and of our citizens, are the facts upon which this writer expatiates, and with which he endeavors, by means of all sorts of comparisons, to overwhelm the imagination of his readers. Those who like to be told just how many times England could be put into the United States, and how many States of the size of Massachusetts could be carved out of Alaska, will find here an abundance of the nutriment which they affect, and will probably like it all the better for the turgidity of style which seems inseparable from writing of this kind. But stupefaction before mere magnitude is not a desirable mental attitude. The size of our country is impressive; the increase of our wealth is fabulous; the growth of our population is amazing; but if a writer has mastered these facts in all their details and have not simplicity of speech, it profiteth him nothing. If Dr. Barrows would cease to strain after effect, and just tell us what he knows—and his knowledge is really extensive—he would produce books of permanent interest and value.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Ainger, A. Letters of Charles Lamb. 2 vols. A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$3.
Bangs, J. K. Katharine: a Traveisty. New York: Privately Printed.
Benner's Prophecies of Future Ups and Downs in Prices. 4th ed. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co.
Berkowitz, Rabbi H. Judaism and the Social Question. John B. Alden. 50 cents.
Bristol, Dr. E. L. M. A Story of the Sands, and Other Poems. Brentanos. \$1.
Carter, Captain R. K. Divine Healing. New ed. John B. Alden. 50 cents.
Culver, H. H. Epitome of Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene. Boston: Ginn & Co. 25 cents.
Dounic, René. Éléments d'histoire littéraire: Littérature française. Paris: Delaplane; Boston: Schoenhof.
Evans, Margaret. Letters of Richard Radcliffe and John James, of Queen's College, Oxford, 1755-83. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan.
Fallax, E. Œuvres choisies de Diderot. Paris: A. Lemerre; Boston: Schoenhof.
Forbush, W. B. Poems of a Boy. Hanover, N. H.: Privately Printed.
Foster, J. Ellen. The Crime against Ireland. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. 60 cents.
Greenough, Prof. J. B. Satires and Epistles of Horace. Boston: Ginn & Co. \$1.35.
Hare, A. J. C. Walks in Paris. George Routledge & Sons. \$3.
Haussonville, Comte Othenin d'. Prosper Mérimée—Hugh Elliot. Paris: Calmann Lévy; Boston: Schoenhof.
Herbert, M. Poems of "Frank Forester" (Henry William Herbert). John Wiley & Sons.
James, H. E. M. The Long White Mountain; or, A Journey in Manchuria. Longmans, Green & Co. \$6.
Klug, T. Haschisch: A Novel. Brentanos. 25 cents.

Henry Holt & Co.

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The Causes of the French Revolution.

By R. W. Dabney, Professor in Indiana University. 16mo, \$1.25.

Loyalty George.

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