to convey any clear meaning; while a little further on may be found the remarkable statoment that "in 1877 a Turkish iron-clad moved at the terrible speed of thirty miles an bour." This is haste indeed !
If Mr. O'Reilly had cut out about 125 of his 350 pages, and had taken a little more pains with the remainder, the result would have been a very enjoyable book instead of an uneven and, on the whole, a disappointing one.

Our Republic: A Text-Book upon the Civil Government of the United States, with a Historic Introduction. By Prof. M. B. C. True and Hon. John W. Dickinson. Leach, Shewell \& Sanborn. 1883. Pp. vii, 264.
The publishers' circular accompanying this book announces that it is " ample in its treatment, . . . scientific in its methods, accurate in statement." The best commentary on their opinion may be found in a few extracts. A book on Civil Government can hardly be called "ample" which gives but two pages to a description of local and municipal government (pp. 43-45); and four more to the State governments (pp. 39-42). For grammarschool instruction, it is not " scientific" to introduce, without definition, such legal terms as " committee-delegates" (p.20), " common law" (p. 33), " presentment" (p. 53), " sold upon execution"(p. 64), "conveyances" (p. 69), "Act of God" (p. 74). The degree of accuracy may be judged from the following statements: "Pennsylvania. This State was granted to Wiliam Penn in 16S1" (p. 13) ; "The adoption of the Constitution [1787-88] changed the colonies into States" (p. 22); "The Convention adopted the Constitution, September 17, 1787, and its members from all the colonies, except those from Rhode Island, signed it" (p. 25); "The district attorney is the prosecuting officer of the county" (p. 43) ; "To have the privilege of suffrage, a person must be a citizen of the United States" (p. 45) : "The district attorneys and other marshals" (p. 1:8); "There is little reason for any regulation of commerce between the States" (p. 105); "Inside its own territory the State authority is supreme" (p. 128). The book is full of similar inexcusable and misleading errors.

Society in Rome under the Casars. By William Ralph Inge, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and Assistant Master at Eton. Charles Scribuer's Sous. 1888. 12mo, pp. 276.
Mr. Inge's essay obtained the Hare prize at Cambridge in 1880. It consists of ten chapters,

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A real defect is the failure to look below the surface. Society as it was in the first centuries is very truthfully delineated, so far as was pos sible with the materials at hand; the author laments that the accessible materials make it necessary to confine his view for the most part to the upper classes of society. But there is one kind of evidence of which he has not made the most-the drift and tendencies of society, which were, of course, concealed from contemporaries, but which we, looking back from a distance, can discern clearly. The second century shows vast changes in society, on the whole for the better; Mr. Pater has thoroughly entered into the spirit of this in his 'Marius the Epicurean.' Now, the fault we find with Mr. Inge is that he does not make us feel that society was in movement-it is deseribed too much as a fixed condition of things to be analyzed and catalogued, and not enough as a current of human passions and forces, leading to a well-known and, on the whole, improved state of society.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Bell, A. M. World-English: the Universal Language. N. D.C. Hodges. 25 cents. Benedix, R. Doctor Wespe. Macmillan \& Co. 75 cents. C . Doctor Wespe. Mamman \& Co. 7 Besant-Rice. By Celia's Arbour: A Tale of Ports mouth Town. Library ed. Dodd, Mead \& Co. Novel.
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Bishop. J. P. Common Law and Codiflcation; or, the Common Law as a system of Reasonlug. Chicago: $T$ H . Flood \& Co. 50 cents.
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