

ciples on which our Government was founded. Perhaps the argument as a whole is too condensed; it would be more effective with ordinary readers were it a good deal expanded. Professor Smith has history at his fingers' ends, so to speak, and he could fill in the framework here erected so as to make it a splendid and impressive treatise. As it is, his book should be read by all thoughtful citizens, as containing the views of a bystander who is not only friendly, but also competent beyond most other men to understand our situation.

The Story of Manhattan.—When Old New York Was Young. By Charles Hemstreet. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1902.

The clear, bold typography of these little volumes, and the clever illustrations enlivening them, correspond well with the simple style clothing the historic statements they contain, and the accuracy of their careful researches into the details of half-forgotten localities. The first book traces lightly the thread of the political history of Manhattan, touching upon the names of those English Governors who were the pensioned minions of royalty, and, so far as the age permitted, as wicked as any Roman proconsuls, and giving due praise to such Governors as the Dutch Stuyvesant and English Burnet, who labored honestly for the welfare of the province. Certain picturesque passages in the social life of earliest New York are dwelt upon, as the Leisler episode, the negro plot, and Kidd's piracy, without any discussion of the doubts that even at this day obscure their details. The reader is left to decide, aided by John Fiske's impartial comments, whether Kidd's crimes sought official accomplices, or Leisler suffered judicial murder.

The other volume concerns itself more with topography than with personalities, showing how the crooked byways and cowpaths of Old Amsterdam lengthened and widened and straightened themselves into the stately avenues now none too ample for the commerce and luxurious abodes of the island we live in. A neat diagram prefixed to each chapter conducts the reader through these changes.

Both these books do much to clear up a vagueness which for most people hangs over the steps in New York's growth, and both might deserve, from their solid information and clear precision, to serve as a basis for manuals for the use of schools in the subjects of which they treat.

The Brook Book: A First Acquaintance with the Brook and its Inhabitants through the Changing Year. By Mary Rogers Miller. Doubleday, Page & Co.

This is a series of pastoral idylls, which lack but a very little of being entirely charming. The author, who is "lecturer on nature study at Cornell University," is a true lover of woods and streams, and a trained and excellent observer of the different forms of life they nourish and maintain. No one at all apt in deciphering the half-hidden sights through which Nature reveals her secrets, or even such as may want to learn how to recognize them when seen, can fail to be impressed with the knowledge the author has of her subject, and her generally delightful and accurate

way of imparting it. The varied aspects of the Brook, during the different months of the year, and of the woods and meadows in western New York through which it flows, furnish the frames which Miss Miller fills with vivid details of animal and vegetable life, full of interest even to those who knew most of them before, and of information about common things useful to every reader. The titles of the chapters give such imperfect hints of their contents that it will serve no purpose to mention more than one or two of them. Those on Dragon-flies and May-flies, relating the history of the various transformations and habits of these common insects, are so well done, and have so much other matter of interest which fits in naturally with the story, that they retain the attention of the reader through every line. There are other chapters which, in the style and power of appreciative description of natural life and scenery, recall strongly the tone of Dr. van Dyke in many of the best parts of his "Little Rivers."

One must not, however, in spite of the general and great excellences of the book, be blind to certain faults which mar parts of it. One of these is a tendency to "gush" that occasionally breaks forth: e. g., on page 5, a really fine description of some strawberry plants in bloom concludes thus, "Their beauty fairly hurt." There are some rather tedious details of æsthetic impressions and purely personal experiences connected largely with dress, and many of the chapters contain matter they would be better without; these slight imperfections being the more apparent from the goodness of what attends them.

The illustrations are numerous, appropriate, and altogether delightful. They consist of engravings and half-tone reproductions of photographs. The latter are conspicuous for the beautiful natural scenes they portray and for their uniform and unusual excellence.

Meditations of an Autograph Collector. By Adrian H. Joline. Harper & Brothers. 1902.

Man is naturally a collecting animal. Some lower vertebrates, as the magpie, the raven, and the Australian bower-bird, have what to the superficial observer seems much the same habit; but there is an important difference: they accumulate, he collects. They gather useless things of many kinds; he as many as possible of one kind. Nothing so insignificant, nothing so hard to get, but may become the object of ardent pursuit: a queen, according to one author, collected a museum of button-holes, and a millionaire, according to another, made a collection of echoes. Collecting, if a weakness, is on all hands admitted to be an eminently respectable weakness; and if Europe would only look upon the Sultan as a collector, whose hobby is Circassian damsels, the Eastern question would pass into a milder phase.

As to the rationality of his hobby, the collector of autographs stands high. Earle's "Antiquary," who "would give all the Bookes in his Study for sixe lines of Tully in his owne hand," was not altogether an ass. No one can be insensible to the interest that attaches to the handwriting of an illustrious man; nor lives there among English-speaking men one with soul so dead

that it would not thrill at the discovery of an autograph of Shakspeare.

One does not need to be a collector to find pleasure and entertainment in the book whose title is given above. In it the amiable author lays his choicest treasures before us, and chats familiarly about them and the writers, about the joys and sorrows of autograph collectors, interspersing the whole with anecdotes. The volume is illustrated with facsimiles and portraits, and has for frontispiece a full-length of Lamb, "scratched on copper from life," in which full justice is done to the exiguity of his legs, and perhaps more than justice to the prominence of his nose. On p. 250 the author says that he cannot understand the question, "Who is to be Prince George of Denmark?"—in a letter of Lockhart's, written in 1837. Of course it means, Who is to be the husband of the young Queen Victoria?—who had just succeeded to the throne.

Histoire de la Littérature Juive, d'après G. Karpelès. Par Isaac Bloch et Émile Lévy. Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1901.

The study of the literature of the Jews in its place among the other literatures of the world is fairly with us. When comparative literature arose, this particular aspect could not fail to assert itself, and so for the last fifty years there has been a vague recognition that many of the most puzzling problems of European letters and folklore might be helped far on their way by taking the Jews into account. But while phrases like "Jewish influence," "the Jews as transmitters," etc., have had in historical strife the blessedness of Mesopotamia, they have also had, for all but a very elect circle, its emptiness of meaning. Jewish literature has been treated hitherto either on a scale and in ways which made it intelligible to the Semitic specialist only, or in sketches which had no value save Mesopotamian and provocative.

The present book strikes a more happy *via media*. It is of some extent—624 pages of text and 60 of indices; but it is also readable and self-explanatory. It has the French lightness of touch which can conceal a *Gründlichkeit* deep as that of any German. Its plan and breadth of sweep also are of the broadest. It takes within its arms all Jewish literature, regardless of language or country, form or substance, and traces the different periods of florescence from Old Testament times to the present day. The periods, indeed, are different and many. If the Jews have not produced many writers of the highest genius, they have shown in letters, as in everything else, an inexplicable power of recuperation and a persistent reassertion of their national genius. The story of it all is given here with considerable wealth of detail, and it will probably be a revelation to most. The book of Karpelès which this is *après*, has been treated very freely, abridged, recast, supplemented, and rearranged. The divisions into sections and chapters, on which in such a work so much depends, are happy and clear. The periods and intervals stand out. Regrettable is the strangely archaic tone in treating the Old Testament scriptures. A word is thrown in for the unity of the Pentateuch, the Solomonic authorship of the "Song of Songs" and "Ecclesiastes," and for the historicity

of the Great Synagogue. Nor is the literary perception at this point always certain. The "Book of Proverbs" and "Ecclesiastes" can hardly be reckoned as poetry, even didactic poetry—if such a thing there be. In treating the later literature, the eyes of the writers are not so closely holden. Regrettable, too, is the lack of references, with clues to further information. Even the specialist will find here and there in these pages notices the source and basis of which he would gladly know. But the book in

general is excellent, and the indices especially cannot be too highly praised.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

A Fool's Errand, by One of the Fools. Fords, Howard & Hulbert.
Altschuler, J. A. My Captive. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.25
Balch, E. S. Antarctica. Philadelphia: Published by the Author.
Cox, Mrs. J. F. Home Thoughts (Second Series). A. S. Barnes & Co. \$1.20.
Davidson, Marie A. The Two Ronwicks. F. Tennyson Neely.
Foster-Melliar, A. The Book of the Rose. New ed. Macmillan, \$1.75.

Headlam, Cecil. Peter Vischer. (Handbooks of the Great Craftsmen.) London: George Bell & Sons; New York: Macmillan, \$2.
Josselyn, Charles. The True Napoleon. R. H. Russell.
Lyal, Edna. The Hinderers. Longmans, Green & Co. \$1.
Marsh, G. C. A Singular Will. F. Tennyson Neely.
Rives, Hallie E. Hearts Courageous. Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill Co.
Shaw, E. R. School Hygiene. (Georgia Edition.) Macmillan, \$1.
Tarver, J. C. Tiberius the Tyrant. London: Archibald Constable & Co.; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$5.
Vielé, H. K. Myra of the Pines. McClure, Phillips & Co.
Williams, Margery. The Late Returning. Macmillan, \$1.25.

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