

Dr. Newman states his subject as follows:

The infant mortality rate . . . is not declining, and this is the broad fact which constitutes the problem to be considered. Children under twelve months of age die in England to-day, in spite of all our boasted progress, and in spite of an immense improvement in the social and physical life of the people, as greatly as they did seventy years ago (p. 18).

Elsewhere he generalizes his results for England in the statement: "The infant mortality rate, as a rule, is stationary or even increasing" (p. 7).

Every one knows that deaths of very young children constitute a great proportion of all deaths, but to be informed that they constitute an increasing proportion, that the steady and rapid decline of the death rate at nearly every age does not extend to infants, but that they, almost alone in the community, are not profiting from the medical and sanitary progress in which we take pride, may have aroused in the minds of others of your readers, as it did in mine, both surprise and incredulity.

The question not considered by Dr. Newman, but of primary interest to your readers, is infant mortality in the United States increasing? may be considered first. The best answer to it is found in the rates for the registration area. These were 206 deaths per 1,000 infants living under one year of age in 1890, and 165 deaths per 1,000 infants in 1900. The conclusion from these figures is supported by evidence from Massachusetts, our most important registration State. In that State the average death rate under one year of age to 1,000 births for 1890 to 1894 was 16.3, for 1895 to 1899 was 15.2, and for 1900 to 1904 was 14.1. This evidence points to a marked decline of infant mortality in the United States.

Let me ask in the second place whether Dr. Newman is correct in his general statement of "the problem to be considered," whether it is true as a rule that the rate of infant mortality "is not declining," but "is stationary or even increasing." The French Government has recently made a compilation of the vital statistics published by the several European countries from the earliest period, and has analyzed the results. In the section dealing with deaths, published in 1906, the conclusion regarding infant mortality is stated as follows: "In almost every country, infant mortality is decreasing, the exceptions being the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, and Belgium," and the tables preceding this discussion show a decrease of infant mortality in fourteen countries of Europe, and an increase in only five, three of which are England, Scotland, and Ireland. Apparently a decrease of infant mortality is the rule in Europe, and not the exception.

Let me ask, finally: Does England constitute a real exception to the general fact? Does the country at whose feet in matters of registration and of sanitary legislation the world has been sitting for three-quarters of a century stand almost alone in showing no decrease of infant mortality? The evidence offered by Dr. Newman, seemingly conclusive as it is, fails to convince me. When he probes that evidence carefully he finds that "there has been an increase in the deaths in the first trimester, accompanied by a decrease, or at least an almost stationary position, in the last two trimesters of the first year of life"; and that "within the first quarter the rise has

been almost wholly in the first month, and within the first month almost wholly in the first week" (p. 15). He does not hold then that there has been any significant increase of infant mortality in England after the first week of life.

Nearly forty years ago one of the leading statisticians in France, Dr. L. A. Bertillon, published the following statement:

In England we cannot hope to measure infant mortality accurately, because there are many omissions in the registration, both of births and of the deaths of infants.

In support of this statement he pointed out that an interval of six weeks was, and I believe still is, allowed to elapse between a birth and its registration instead of the three days usually prescribed in the Continental countries; that no registration of still-births was required; and that the rates of infant mortality in France and England after the first month were almost identical; but that for the first month the rate in England was only half that in France, showing clearly "that many deaths of children occurring during the first month are not registered" (sc. in England). I am not aware that this criticism has ever been answered. Certainly it is accepted as valid by the French publication of 1906 already quoted. A committee of the House of Commons reported in 1893: "There is reason to think . . . that the number of children buried in the United Kingdom annually as still-born is enormous"; that is, that many children born alive, but dying within the forty-two days allowed for registration, are buried without registration of the birth or death. Now we have only to assume that these violations of law have become a little less frequent during the period covered by the figures in order to find in that change a complete explanation of the apparent increase in the mortality of very young infants in England.

WALTER F. WILLCOX.

Cornell University, Ithaca, September 2.

Notes.

The Macmillan Co's fall announcement list includes a new novel by F. Marion Crawford, "Arethusa," a tale of Constantinople; "The Gulf," an American story by John Luther Long; new translations of Björnson's "In God's Way" and "The Heritage of the Kurts"; "Theodore Roosevelt: the Boy and the Man," classed as a "juvenile," by James Morgan; "The Iliad for Boys and Girls," by A. J. Church; "Florence and the Cities of Northern Tuscany, with Genoa," by Edward Hutton; "Highways and Byways in Kent," by Walter Jerrold, illustrated by Hugh Thomson; "Rivieras of France and Italy," painted and described by Gordon Howe; "The Seven Ages of Washington," by Owen Wister; "My Life in the Underworld," by Jack London; the Memoirs of Alexander Dumas, translated by E. M. Waller; "The Gentlest Art," an anthology of the most entertaining letters in the English language, edited by E. V. Lucas; "Philosophical Essays and Discussions," by Frederic Harrison; "A Self-supporting Home," by Mrs. Kate V. Saint Maur; "An Artist's Reminiscences," by Walter Crane; the Letters of the late Dean Hole; the second volume of Prof. Ed-

ward Channing's "History of the United States"; "British Colonial Policy, 1754-1765," by George Louis Beer; a new volume of poems by Alfred Noyes; "Specimens of Modern English Literary Criticism," selected by Prof. William T. Brewster; "England," a discussion of the organization and construction of its government, general, local, and colonial, by Prof. A. Lawrence Lowell; "Essentials of Economic Theory," by Prof. J. B. Clark; "The Rate of Interest," by Prof. Irving Fisher; "The Government of European Cities," by Prof. William Bennett Munro; "Essays in Municipal Administration," by Prof. John A. Fairlie; "The Outlook for the Average Man," by Dr. Albert Shaw; "Primitive Secret Societies," by Prof. Hutton Webster; "Negro Races," by Jerome Dowd; "British State Telegraphs" and "Public Ownership and the Telephone in Great Britain," by Prof. Hugo R. Meyer; "Railway Corporations as Public Servants," by Henry S. Haines; "Principles of Taxation," a volume in the Citizens' Library, by Max West; "Introduction to the Study of Comparative Religion," by Frank Byron Jevons; "the Seeming Unreality of the Spiritual Life," by President Henry Churchill King; "Religion and Social Reform" and "New Theology Sermons," a companion volume to "The New Theology," by the Rev. R. J. Campbell; volume ii. of Edward Westmarck's "Origin and Development of the Moral Ideas"; "Life in the Homeric Age," by Prof. Thomas Day Seymour; "Linguistic Development and Education," by Prof. M. V. O'Shea; "Psychology and Pedagogy of Reading," by Prof. Edmund B. Huey; "Pupil Self-government," by Bernard Cronsom; "Theories of Style," by Prof. Lane Cooper; "Educational Woodworking for School and Home," by Joseph C. Park; and "Economics for High Schools," by Prof. Frank W. Blackmar. The works of Byron, with a biographical sketch by the late Sir Leslie Stephen, will be added to the Globe Poets.

The Century Co. will issue this fall a new series of books made up of stories and sketches reprinted from *St. Nicholas*. There will be six of these books of adventure, travel, and description, the scenes laid in different sections of the United States; the books will be called: "Western Frontier Stories," "Stories of the Great Lakes," "Island Stories," "Stories of Strange Sights," "Sea Stories," and "Stories of the South."

The Baker & Taylor Company will publish soon the Memoirs of Frédéric Mistral and "The Story of Joseph"—the Joseph of the Old Testament—by George Alfred Williams.

Harper & Brothers are publishing immediately "In Wildest Africa," illustrated with many photographs by the author, C. G. Schillings; and "Discoveries in Everyday Europe," an illustrated volume of humorous sketches by Don C. Seitz.

Frederick McCormick, a war correspondent for the Associated Press, has written the story of the struggle between Russia and Japan as he saw it. The Outing Publishing Co. will issue the book under the title "The Tragedy of Russia in Pacific Asia."

The Burrows Brothers Company has just issued Dr. Bernard C. Steiner's Life and Correspondence of Dr. James McHenry, Secretary of War under Washington and Adams,

which was awarded the John Marshall prize at Johns Hopkins for 1907. The work presents a number of letters, hitherto unpublished, from men of the Revolutionary period. The Birch miniature portrait of Washington is used as frontispiece.

"The Story of a Cannoneer under Stonewall Jackson," by Edward A. Moore of the Rockbridge Artillery (New York: The Neale Publishing Co.), is a "plain, unvarnished" narrative of a private soldier of the Confederacy, a narrative as full of incident and adventure as any novel ever penned. He who likes to read of hard fighting will be more than satisfied with it, for the Rockbridge Battery of Artillery was one of the two or three best-known artillery companies of the Confederate armies. Enlisted at Lexington, Va., in Rockbridge County, the site of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University), and of the Virginia Military Institute, in which Stonewall Jackson was a professor until called to the field, this battery was composed largely of Washington College students and sons of prominent families, including after a while, as a private, a son of Robert E. Lee. The Rockbridge Artillery followed Jackson until his death and then fought on until Appomattox Courthouse. Mr. Moore, owing to his youth and the previous enlistment of his brothers, did not join the Rockbridge Corps until March 10, 1862. After that he shared its fortunes save when at home from wounds or disability. He makes no effort to describe or comment on the campaigns, but he has remembered so many details of camp and battle, so many comic, so many moving and tragic incidents of his service and of his comrades, that the book possesses genuine value despite occasional eccentricities of style which careful editing would have avoided. Certainly, no one can read Mr. Moore's homely but bright narrative without receiving a vivid picture of what the civil war meant to the Southern private. For this reason it deserves a place in all libraries of that war, particularly as it includes a roster of what was a singularly gallant and well-commanded organization among many such in the Confederacy. Introductions by Robert E. Lee, Jr., who served with the artillery, and by Harry St. George Tucker add nothing to the value of the volume.

Albert Stickney's "Organized Democracy" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) is one of those radical pleas for political reconstruction which, however little likely to be adopted or even seriously considered, are not without usefulness as criticisms of existing political evils. Mr. Stickney is convinced not only that we have not true democracy in this country, but also that we cannot have true democracy so long as the present electoral and administrative systems prevail. Under popular election of all officials for fixed terms, joined to the party system, all that the voter can do is to vote for the candidate of this or that machine; his own personal choice, if he have one, he cannot possibly register. The remedy Mr. Stickney urges is the establishment, in local, State, and Federal Government, of a system of single-headed administration, with the heads of departments controlled directly by a Legislature the members of which are popularly chosen by *viva voce* vote. For tenure during short

terms there would be substituted tenure during good behavior. Congress, for example, would become a body of one house with the power of removing the President, but without control over subordinate appointments. We fear that Mr. Stickney is too optimistic, and too little appreciative of the difficulty in this country of achieving reforms by wholesale; but his shrewd observations and obvious seriousness make his book not uninteresting. Incidentally, we commend to the curious the extraordinary punctuation of the volume.

President Nicholas Murray Butler's "True and False Democracy" (Macmillan Co.) comprises three addresses, the two besides the title paper dealing respectively with "Education of Public Opinion" and "Democracy and Education." There is here no exposition of a novel theory, nor yet a plea for revolutionary changes in political machinery or organization. To President Butler, the bases of political health are in personal right thinking and right acting, in clear intellectual perception and sturdy moral conduct. With the fundamental errors and still more dangerous half truths of socialism in mind, he insists that true democracy can never mean equality, save of opportunity, but that its essence is liberty, exercised with due regard for the rights of others and instinctive respect for law. There is an earnest plea for better political education, for wiser leadership, and for the repudiation of the boss, who does not lead, but drives. The papers are admirably phrased, and merit thoughtful reading.

"Races and Immigrants in America," by Prof. John R. Commons (The Macmillan Company), is a worthy addition to the literature of a subject whose significance is, we fear, too little apprehended as yet. Beginning with a brief survey of the historical relation of race to democracy, Professor Commons goes on to consider somewhat in detail the varied race elements in the American colonies, including the negro, and the geographical and social sources of the nineteenth century additions. With this foundation, he then takes up the combined questions of race and immigration as related to or affected by labor demand and supply, industrial opportunity and efficiency, rural and urban life, literacy, poverty and crime, suffrage and political status, and amalgamation and assimilation. Well fortified throughout by statistics, and evidencing a wide range of observation, the great merit of the volume is its sensibleness. Professor Commons points out, for example, that the "race hostility" of which much is said is not primarily racial in character at all, but rather "the competitive struggle for standards of living"; and that it appears to be racial "because, for the most part, different races have different standards" (p. 115). "Race suicide" among the masses of wage-earners is one of the natural results of such a struggle; and while Rooseveltian exhortation is well enough for those who can act upon it, multiplication of offspring for people to whom young children must be an economic burden amounts, in Professor Commons's opinion, to an attempt to cure race suicide by race deterioration. On the other hand, the preponderance of adults among immigrants, together with the intense desire of the immigrant to rise in

life, has helped to bring about the "feverish overproduction" and consequent collapse which have characterized American industry. As regards the future of the negro, to whose unhappy lot the volume devotes a good deal of space, Professor Commons seems pretty pessimistic, though the situation is admittedly bad enough. We cannot enter into the details, however, of any of the author's conclusions, and can only commend the book as a thoughtful and enlightening contribution to the understanding of a serious subject.

In the third volume of the Student's Old Testament, "Israel's Laws and Legal Precedents" (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons), Prof. Charles Foster Kent reaches a field where classification and rearrangement of the Scripture text is of great value to the student of the development of Hebrew religion and social usages. The legal portion of the Old Testament is arranged in five general divisions: (1) personal and family laws; (2) criminal laws, comprising injuries to persons, property, and society; (3) humane laws, emphasizing the duty of kindness to animals and men; (4) religious laws, defining obligations to God; and (5) ceremonial laws, containing minute directions regarding worship and the ritual. This classification is both logical and, in a rough way, chronological. The history of the development of Hebrew legislation, its wide range, and remarkable ethical and religious significance, are by this means brought graphically before the reader. The relation of the legislation to the work of the prophets is set forth clearly, and the dependence of the Hebrew codes upon the older Babylonian enactments is frankly acknowledged. Professor Kent declares:

Nowhere in all legal literature can the genesis and growth of primitive law be traced so clearly as in Israel's codes thus restored. They also represent the most important cornerstones of our modern English laws and institutions, and therefore challenge and richly reward the study of all legal and historical students.

One who has had experience of the mass of facts which lie ready to one's hand when one undertakes to describe any of the great religions, will appreciate the forbearance and skill with which Prof. Karl Marti of Bern has brought out the distinctive features of Hebrew piety in "The Religion of the Old Testament," now translated by the Rev. G. A. Bienemann (G. P. Putnam's Sons). So far as we are aware, no one has gathered more successfully into brief compass the more vital matters in the modern understanding of Old Testament religion. The special inquirer on a particular subject, e. g., the ark, the Levites, might be disappointed to find his topic treated so summarily, but the beginner in scientific and comparative study of the Old Testament would be correspondingly grateful that a rapid glance over the whole field is afforded, with those features in the foreground which more thorough research will prove to be essential. The development of Hebrew belief is analyzed in four periods, the Nomad religion, the Peasant religion, the religion of the Prophets, the Legal religion. The general understanding is that of Wellhausen, with recognition of a large original element in Hebrew piety despite near relationship at many points to faiths of the nearer East. Professor Marti has avoided idiosyncrasies of opinion to such an extent

that one might use a phrase common among critics, and describe his work as the "product of a school," without detracting in the least from his independence of research and of judgment. As to the translation, it is usually possible to see the author's meaning, but such phrases as "it is thanks to the prophets," "religiosity" (in a good sense), "Babel" for Babylon, indicate careless editing.

Cæsar's Civil War with Pompeius has been translated with introduction and notes by the Rev. F. P. Long, for Henry Frowde. Since the masterly reproduction of Cæsar's account of his campaigns in Gaul by Holmes, we have needed a similar treatment of his Civil War; and the appearance of this translation, though very different in style, is a matter of congratulation to students of the most interesting period of Roman history. The translator prefixes to the narrative a thoughtful and well-written introduction, in which he summarizes the conditions at Rome which rendered the rise of Pompeius and Cæsar inevitable; he shows with great clearness that it is quite unjust to regard Cæsar as a rebel against a state which had practically driven him to the measures he adopted. The text on which the translation is based is that of Du Pontet, in this regard marking a refreshing change from the servility to German editions, which has characterized most English, as well as American, work in recent years. The translation itself, while not free from occasional inaccuracies or even mistakes, shows, in the main, the hand of a master of English, as well as of Latin; it is full of the dash and vigor of the original and only occasionally shows that it is a translation. In some respects, perhaps it is too English; e. g., English technical terms of a rather special meaning are sometimes employed, which an American would find it a little difficult to understand, as the rendering of *consules* by *Government* in the narrow Parliamentary sense.

In his "Volkschule und Lehrerbildung der Vereinigten Staaten in ihren hervortretenden Zügen"—the fairest and most interesting book concerning American schools yet written by a German (imported by G. E. Stechert & Co.)—Dr. Franz Kuypers of Cologne disclaims any thorough study of our institutions and presents what he has to say rather as "impressions of travel." Yet he saw a great deal in the few weeks that he was here in 1904, the assembled exhibits at the St. Louis Exposition assisting him materially to get a comprehensive view. His tabulated facts, penetrating criticism, and hearty praise are brought home to the teacher by not less than forty-eight engravings, illustrating many phases of American school life from the kindergarten to the high school, as seen in New York, Boston, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, and elsewhere. In a *Vorwort* of ten pages, Dr. Kuypers contrasts the *Schulmonarchie* of the Germans with the *Schuldemokratie* of the Americans, and finds that though we may fail in idealistic training while excelling in the practical, the Germans may learn much from us, particularly by way of suggestion. A bibliography calls attention to German as well as English books on American school affairs.

Another book just imported by Stechert & Co. is Georg Kerschensteiner's "Grundfragen der Schulorganisation," a collection

of addresses and essays by the Munich school commissioner, dealing with the period of the German *Junge* between school and army service, professional and general training, productive labor and its educational value, the fundamentals in the organization of high schools, the training of teachers, the reorganization of the industrial schools in Munich, and various matters pertaining to the advanced schools for girls and the relation of the municipality to the schools. Though almost exclusively German, and specifically Bavarian, in its point of view, the book will be suggestive to intelligent American teachers.

Modern archæology in Japan may almost be said to have been begun by American scholars, when A. S. Bickmore declared the Ainu of Yezo to belong to the Aryan race, and Prof. E. D. Morse discovered and opened a shell heap on the line of the Tokio-Yokohama Railway in 1875. Now, the Japanese pursue the work themselves, having opened over four thousand tumuli, dolmens, or megalithic chambers. Besides endowing professors' chairs of ethnology, they are creating museums of the highest anthropological interest. On Yezo Island, the Rev. John Batchelor has for thirty years made the Ainu his special study, demonstrating their language to be Aryan. In a recent paper in the *Japan Mail*, he retracted his formerly expressed belief in the existence of a dwarfish and pre-Ainu race of pit-dwellers. These were called Koropok-guru, and about them a voluminous popular and pseudo-scientific literature has gathered. The recent writings of Japanese archæologists are uniform in discrediting the existence of any such race, besides proving that the Ainu themselves were pit-dwellers and that they made pottery, used paint and flint knives, and lived in the stone age. Their conquerors, continental and possibly of Semitic origin, used metal, and were in other respects more perfectly equipped for conquest, which was completed only after a struggle of two thousand years. In Part I, Vol. 1 of the Transactions of the Sapporo Natural History Society is a valuable brochure on the *chasi*, or forts enclosed by fences or embankments used by the Ainu in defence against their Japanese conquerors. Traces of these are found not only all over Yezo, but in northern Japan, while the geographical nomenclature on both islands is in harmony with the conclusions of the archæologists, that the Ainu, speaking an Aryan tongue, once inhabited the whole archipelago.

One of the "Morning Stars of the Restoration" in Japan, was Dr. Hashimoto Sanai, born in Fukui in 1834. The celebration in 1908 of the fiftieth anniversary of his death is to be marked by the publication of his complete works, with a new biography. Besides being a master of Chinese learning, he studied Dutch, and through this medium knew much of the history, literature, and science of the world. He foreshadowed in his writings much that has become fact in the modern government, national policy, and education of Japan. Besides practising medicine he founded the school of modern sciences and languages in Fukui, which was, after 1870, conducted by American teachers. He was among the first to secure steamships, develop mining on modern principles, and to

adopt vaccination, modern hygiene, and European military drill and arms. When his feudal lord of Echizen, was, with other liberal minded daimios, imprisoned in the agitations which arose after the signing of the Townsend Harris treaty, Hashimoto, with nearly fifty other upright and loyal men, was seized and put to death by the arbitrary Yedo premier Ii.

Acting on the recommendation of the New York Library Association, at its last annual meeting, the New York State Education Department has undertaken the publication of a quarterly journal in the interest of the libraries of this State. While news of general library interest will be touched on briefly, and one or more articles dealing in a broad way with questions of library policy will be contained in each number, the design of the new quarterly is specifically to deal with local or State matters, with the idea of developing among the libraries of the State a stronger sense of unity and a more effective coöperation. The first issue will appear on or before the first of October, and will have as its chief topic the selection of books for small libraries. The following papers dealing with this question will be included: "Principles of Book Selection," by Corinne Bacon; "What Can We Get Out of a Henty Book?" by Caroline M. Hewins; "The One Hundred First Books for the Children's Library," by Clara W. Hunt; "One Hundred Dollars for a Reference Collection," by J. I. Wyer, Jr.; "Some Useful New York State Documents," by J. I. Wyer, Jr.; "Subscription Books"—advice of the American Library Association committee on book-buying. Other features of the first issue will be a paper on simple methods in library work by Mrs. E. E. Ledbetter; a "Question Box," dealing with some homely library details; "What New York Does for Libraries," and "News and Notes of New York Libraries." The journal will be sent free to all libraries and members of library boards in the State who make application. To others the cost will be twenty-five cents a year or ten cents a copy.

The project recommended at the international meeting of librarians at St. Louis in 1904, to aid public librarians in American cities in selecting current books in foreign languages by the publication of select lists made up for this purpose by expert librarians in different countries, has now been realized in the case of Italian books by the publication in English of a small serial called "The Best Italian Reading," by Dr. Guido Biagi, director of the Laurentian Library, Florence, issued as a supplement to the *Revista delle Biblioteche e degli Archivi*. The first issue, treating only of reference books and history, contains twenty-five titles. Other classes of books will be taken up in subsequent numbers. Brief but helpful annotations in English are given for each title.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has at the Jamestown Exposition an interesting exhibit of the methods and appliances in operation at that library. As for several years this library has been known particularly for its specializations in children's work, the main interest of the exhibit attaches naturally to its showing of the details and results of this work. The following are some of the items of interest

brought out in the prospectus of the exhibit: The library maintains 168 distributing centres from which children may draw books. These include 66 schools, 50 reading clubs, 29 "home libraries," 12 deposit stations, 6 branch libraries, 4 summer playgrounds, and 1 special children's room. The attendance in the various children's rooms last year was 322,239, and for the nine years that these rooms have been in operation the total attendance is 2,280,536. Last year the library circulated among children 376,559 volumes, and during nine years the circulation among children has reached a total of 2,125,660. In 1901, a school for the special training of children's librarians was instituted, the only one of its kind in the world. During the six years of its operation, it has sent out 70 skilled workers to fill positions in children's departments, and such has been the demand for these workers that many more positions could have been filled had the supply been sufficient.

The varied educational activities of a typical city library in Great Britain are well illustrated in the annual report of the Liverpool Public Library. Ten circulating branches with reading rooms are operated—in addition to a large central reference department. With a total stock of 280,000 volumes, there were issued during the year 1,362,000 volumes for home reading, and 1,410,444 for reference use, making a total of 2,773,436. This means an average of about ten issues for each book in the library, rarely if ever equalled in a library of its size. A feature of work much emphasized in this as in most other British libraries is the free lecture, covering all sorts of educational topics, designed specifically to introduce hearers to different classes of books in the library. During the year 178 such lectures were given in nineteen centres, with a total attendance of 97,426 persons. To these lectures much of the popularity of the library is attributed.

According to the British Museum Return for 1906, 246 books, mostly of German and Italian origin, printed before 1500 have recently been added; and, in addition, the Museum has, through gifts from Lord Strathcona, the Hon. Walter Rothschild, and others, received 153 works or editions hitherto unknown. The Museum has now, exclusive of duplicates, 9,088 books printed before 1500. During the year 28,498 volumes and pamphlets have been added to the library, and 64,977 parts of volumes, issues of periodicals, etc. The Department of Manuscripts has received two Greek papyrus rolls from Herculaneum, twenty papyri from the Egyptian Exploration Fund, two manuscripts of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," and a volume of English metrical romances dating from about 1400.

The crowding of Russian students, particularly Jewesses, into the Swiss universities has become so serious a problem that at a conference of Swiss university rectors, held recently in Lausanne, it was decided to make the entrance requirements so stringent as to exclude a large percentage of this element. Berne, in particular, has suffered, because this university has been especially liberal in admitting foreigners. As a consequence, its enrolment of Russian students in the summer semester just closed was 709, as compared with 614 during

the preceding half-year. Of these 709, the women numbered 430. The authorities of the Zürich University took steps in this matter last year, with the result that its Jewish-Russian enrolment decreased by more than fifty in a single term.

The commission appointed to prepare the programme for the coming International Archaeological Congress next spring in Cairo, has sent out from the Egyptian Museum of that city the preliminary announcement. The experience of the last congress, held in Athens in 1905, convinced the majority of the participants that the work had been too minutely divided. Accordingly, the next congress is to have only six groups: (1) Pre-classical Archaeology; (2) Classical Archaeology; (3) Papyrology; (4) Christian Archaeology; (5) Numismatics and Geography; (6) Byzantine Archaeology. This arrangement, however, does not meet with universal approval. The Munich *Allgemeine Zeitung*, for example, while expressing pleasure at the fact that the new science of papyrology has attained to the dignity of a separate section, regrets that Inscriptions has been assigned to a subordinate place; as also that Christian Archaeology has not been united with Byzantine Archaeology.

René François Armand Sully-Prudhomme, the French poet and critic, died suddenly September 7 at his villa, near Chateaufort. He was born in Paris in 1839, the son of a merchant. After completing the courses in science and philosophy at the Lycée Bonaparte, he began work in the office of an ironmaster at Creusot. This employment he abandoned with the intention of entering the legal profession, and he actually began as a notary's clerk. But his inclinations were in the direction of literature; and in his twenty-sixth year he published his first volume, "Stances et Poèmes," which secured the enthusiastic recognition of Sainte-Beuve. One poem, in particular, "Le Vase Brisé," was singled out as a little masterpiece, equally noticeable for its exquisite finish and its delicacy of sentiment and style. Fortunately, a modest patrimony enabled him to devote himself to literary work without wholly depending on it for a livelihood. His second collection of verse, "Les Épreuves," appeared in 1866; in it he expressed the sadness of unbelief. Three years later followed "Les Solitudes" and his rhymed translation of the first book of Lucretius, "La Nature des Choses," in which he wrote a brilliant and widely discussed preface. "Impressions de Guerre" (1870) dealt with some of the phases of the Franco-Prussian War; "Les Destinées" (1872) and "Vaines Tendresses" (1875) are of a more personal nature. These writings established his reputation as one of the most vigorous and exact of contemporary French writers, and one of the most distinguished for lofty sentiments and philosophical ideas. His first great philosophical poem, "La Justice," appeared in 1878, and to it he owed his election to the French Academy in 1881. In this poem he insisted upon the justice which he found in universal nature. His next work, "Le Prisme: Poésies Diverses," published in 1886, was a return to the more personal style. His best-known poems, however, and those on which his reputation most firmly rests, embodied idealized philosophical conceptions, such as solitude, justice, and happiness.

"Le Bonheur," 1888, is a sort of vision of the progress of humanity toward the ideal state of supreme happiness. M. Sully-Prudhomme's "Testament Poétique," 1901, won the Nobel prize over such competitors as Ibsen, Tolstoy, Frédéric Mistral, Sienkiewicz, Ossip-Lourié, Hauptmann, Rostand, D'Annunzio, Freitag, and Echegaray. Although by no means a rich man, the poet devoted a considerable portion of the prize to establishing an annual award for excellence among the younger French poets. As a critic he published two volumes, "L'Expression dans les Beaux Arts" and "Reflexions sur l'Art des Vers." He wrote for the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, among other articles an important study of Pascal. For many years before his death, a sufferer from rheumatic gout, he had lived a quiet life in his country house.

NOTES ON TEXT BOOKS.

A revised edition of Myers's "General History," and "A Short History of Ancient Times," by the same author, extracted from the former work, are published by Ginn & Co. Mr. Myers's text books have long been popular with schoolmasters, and require no extended comment. The chief feature of these new editions is that they are brought up to recent investigations in early Oriental civilization. The same firm publishes "Outlines and Studies," by Florence Leadbetter, a series of brief notes and questions intended to be used with Myers's text books. These three books all belong to that class which aims at reducing history as nearly as possible to tabular statements, for the specific purpose of answering examination questions.

School histories of the United States still continue to be published with great regularity. Three recent ones are by Prof. J. B. McMaster (American Book Co.), R. L. Ashley (The Macmillan Co.), and Professor Prince (Scribner's). The first two are well illustrated and produced; the latter is very short, not illustrated, and aims at presenting a "bird's-eye view." None of these books is of exceptional merit, and a search for novel features discloses little beyond the fact that Professor Prince is rather more Southern in his views than his two competitors.

A successful English text book is the "History of England, for Use in Schools," by Arthur D. Innes (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons). The three volumes in which it previously appeared have now been united in one. The book is well supplied with outline maps, there are good summaries and tables, but illustrations are wanting. The standard of accuracy is reasonably good.

"Outlines of Roman History," by H. F. Pelham, Camden professor of ancient history at Oxford (G. P. Putnam's Sons), is well known from the previous editions. The new version differs from its predecessors chiefly in the larger space given to the history of the Flavian Emperors and of Trajan, to the annexation of territory beyond the Rhine effected by the former, and to the Dacian and Parthian campaigns of the latter. Since Professor Pelham belongs to the school of Niebuhr and Mommsen, he is decidedly skeptical concerning the traditional account of Rome under the kings and