

relative merits of French and English poetry. And it is in accordance with this implicit promise that Mr. Bailey begins his serious business of criticism with a paper on "English Taste and French Drama," meaning thereby the drama of the seventeenth century. His point of view in this article, as in the whole course of his volume for that matter, is frankly English; his object in this instance is to justify the common insular prejudice against Corneille and particularly Racine, whom he triumphantly finds inferior, not only to Dante, Shakespeare, and the Greek tragedians, but in some respects to a number of romantic poets. His attitude is calm and judicial, he realizes that the unfortunates are on trial for their lives, and what he says is all true enough in itself; his rating is in some sort justified. But this kind of discussion is one which no lover of Racine will much enjoy; for, after all, such rating, whether justified or not, misses the point; and it is impossible to read this chapter, good as it is in parts, without feeling that the writer has never wholly got into his Racine.

In so far, however, the book may be said to fulfil its pretensions; it is an examination of the claims of French poetry. But the remaining essays are hardly other than papers of the ordinary appreciative character; each attempts to exhibit what is distinctive of some one French poet; for in spite of his relatively adverse judgment, the writer still believes that there is much in French verse which the lover of poetry cannot afford to neglect. At the same time, its type, on the whole, is that of Horace: it is "the broad way across the plain of life, not the difficult paths over the mountains."

With this idea in mind—and some further notion, perhaps, of exemplifying the exceptions as well as the rule—he considers severally Marot, Ronsard, La Fontaine, André Chénier, Hugo, Leconte de Lisle, and Heredia. These pieces are acute and interesting, and particularly well illustrated by copious quotations. Marot is "the most natural of poets." "The charm of Ronsard lies in 'the effect as of 'something rich and strange' and 'the graceful play of fancy.'" La Fontaine is, with Molière, "one of the greatest pleasure-givers of all times and all countries." Chénier has "a political fervor which makes us think of Shelley, and an artistic insight into the beauty of Greek mythology which is a foretaste of Keats." Hugo is "a kind of spokesman of humanity, and in particular . . . he more than any one else is the poetic voice of the nineteenth century." "The dominant note of Leconte de Lisle [is] a kind of intellectual and artistic quietism," while the main characteristic of Heredia seems to be "an air of unique distinction."

Such are, in brief, the claims of these

poets upon our attention, as the writer sees them. Some of his confrontations are a little curious; yet every now and then he works out a suggestive parallel—as between Leconte de Lisle and Matthew Arnold. But his list itself is the most significant thing in the book. Upon this roll of "greater French poets" there does not figure a single prominent classic. They are all virtually disposed of in the essay on "English Taste." Evidently, Mr. Bailey is modern and romantic; and the fact explains sufficiently perhaps his reservations toward Racine and Boileau, and even Malherbe, and his expansiveness toward Marot and Ronsard, as well as Molière and La Fontaine, whom he excepts from the other writers of their period.

Notes.

In November Constable & Co. will begin the publication of an illustrated edition of the works of George Meredith, in about twenty-six volumes, to be sold in sets only. One volume will comprise the uncompleted novel, "Celt and Saxon," and there will be other unpublished matter, including an incomplete romance and a comedy. A bibliography will appear in a final volume.

Fleming H. Revell Company announces for publication on October 2 "The Immigrant Tide: Its Ebb and Flow," by Edward A. Steiner, and "Court Life in China: The Capital; its Officials and People," by I. T. Headland.

Dr. Johnson's bicentenary is to be commemorated by the reissue of Boswell's "Life" in two volumes, edited by Roger Ingpen, and with six hundred illustrations (Sturgis & Walton Co.).

"Roman Cities of Northern Italy and Dalmatia," by A. L. Frothingham, is among the autumn publications of the Sturgis & Walton Co., and "The Roman Assemblies from Their Origin to the End of the Republic," by Prof. George Willis Botsford, is on the Macmillans' list.

The Macmillan Co. announces two college text-books of considerable importance in Prof. Louis Kahlenberg's "Outlines of Chemistry" and the "Representative Biographies" of C. T. Copeland and F. W. C. Hersey.

Among the new books on the list of Sherman, French & Co. are: "Selections from the Writings of Sir Walter Raleigh," edited by F. W. C. Hersey; "Religion and the Modern Mind," by Frank Carleton Doan, of the Meadville Theological School, and "The Prison Ships and Other Poems," by Thomas Walsh.

Notable among the autumn publications of Henry Frowde are editions of Campion's "Complete Works," edited by P. Vivian; Spenser's "Poetical Works," vols. II and III, edited by J. C. Smith, and the Marquis of Halifax's "Complete Works," edited by W. A. Raleigh—all three in the Oxford English Texts; Marlowe's "Works," a popular edition in one volume, edited by C. F. Tucker Brooke; "The Dublin Book of Irish Verse," edited by J. Cooke, and, in the Ox-

ford Library of Prose and Poetry, "Shelley's Literary and Philosophical Criticism," edited by J. Shawcross.

Two more books on Africa are announced: "Snapshots from Sunny Africa," by Helen E. Springer (Fleming H. Revell Co.), and Peter MacQueen's "In Wildest Africa," illustrated by Peter Dutkewich (L. C. Page & Co.).

In "The Picturesque Hudson" (The Macmillan Co.) Clifton Johnson gives a pleasant and timely description of the river. "To a very large degree," he says, "the peculiar sentiment and romance that are associated with the Hudson are due to Washington Irving. The river may almost be said to have been discovered by him. . . . Whether he was writing fiction or simply interpreting fact, in either case his lively imagination and gentle humor imparted an atmosphere that will always color the public impression of the region." To Irving's fables, which he quotes liberally, the author has added touches of local color gleaned from talks with fishermen and "old settlers" who still take their living from the river. Historical events and associations are recorded, and the scenery is described without too many superlatives. The illustrations, some forty in number, from photographs taken by Mr. Johnson, are marked by their individuality.

As a descendant of Robert Fulton, Mrs. Alice Crary Sutcliffe ("Robert Fulton and the Clermont," the Century Co.) has had access to family documents which were not available to previous biographers of the inventor, and these throw additional light on his efforts and achievements. Not the least interesting of these papers is Fulton's hitherto unpublished recital of the experiments in France with his plunging boat and with his torpedo, or bomb submarine. From the inventor's point of view both were practicable. "He openly demonstrated the principles of his inventions," says Mrs. Sutcliffe, "and vainly offered them to the French government. If Napoleon had been favorable to them, the history of Europe might have changed. But Napoleon's scientific counsellors pronounced Fulton 'a visionary' and his invention 'a mad scheme.'" The French judgment of the man was a "simple absurdity." Every detail of his inventions was set down in figures, drawings, and models; moreover, he had always in view the advantages humanity would receive from the products of his genius. That point the author drives home. Fulton's predictions regarding the benefits of canal systems—a subject near to his heart—have been borne out by the development of navigation in this and other countries. As he wrote to George Washington:

The discovery of the mariner's compass gave commerce to the world. The invention of printing is dissipating darkness and giving a polish to the mass of men. And the introduction of the creative system of canals as certain in their effects will give an agricultural polish to every acre of America.

Thus it is not a mistake to characterize Fulton as a reformer who was "deeply interested in the largest problems of humanity." A valuable addition to the book is the list of Fulton's paintings and miniatures, several of which are in the hands of American collectors.

What art has joined together, science has attempted to put asunder, in "The

Collaboration of Webster and Dekker," a dissertation by Frederick Erastus Pierce, published as Vol. XXXVII of the Yale Studies in English. Since Fleay's unsupported attribution of the greater part of "Westward Ho" and "Northward Ho" to Webster, the best critical opinion has been steadily shifting to the opposite ground. In a study of Webster which appeared in 1905, Prof. E. E. Stoll argued pretty conclusively that all literary tests pointed to Dekker as the principal author of the two plays. By a systematic application of the various familiar processes, Mr. Pierce endeavors to reduce uncertainty about these two plays and "Sir Thomas Wyatt" to the lowest terms. In so far as he uses the "parallel passage," the "metrical," the "incident," the "character," and "atmosphere" tests his procedure, though clear and methodical, is not original, nor in its results much more than corroborative; he concludes that the share of Webster in the citizen-comedies was very small, and that he wrote about a third of "Sir Thomas Wyatt." The dissertation tends as a whole to strengthen our conviction that the earlier students of the drama generally failed to do justice to the abundance and fertility of Dekker's genius.

But the most interesting part of Mr. Pierce's work is an entirely new test for the discrimination of authorship—a test almost as impartial as mathematics and yielding results as easily tabulated. Observing off-hand a marked difference between Webster and Dekker in the use of polysyllables of classical derivation, Mr. Pierce devised a method of comparison, as follows.

The first thing to do . . . is to reduce the whole scene in question to solid prose lines; that is, to find how many lines it would contain if it were printed as one solid block of prose, without breaks at the ends of metrical lines, without gaps between speeches, and without stage directions. Then the whole number of three-syllable words (of Greek or Latin derivation) divided by the number of solid prose lines, equals the ratio of these words to a line. For instance, if a scene contains 100 solid lines and 22 of the aforementioned words, its word-average would be .220. If the length of the prose line, which is the standard of measure, is carefully kept the same, this gives the fairest and most accurate kind of test.

Investigation, scene by scene, of all the plays produced by each of the writers separately reveals a surprising consistency in the proportion of polysyllables. When entire plays are compared, the difference between the two authors is striking. Of Dekker's ten plays, the lowest has a word-average of .116; the highest, .252. Of Webster's five plays, on the other hand, the lowest has a word-average of .296; the highest, of .349. Between Dekker's highest and Webster's lowest is an interval of 44 points. On the mathematical theory of chances, Mr. Pierce asserts that "when a scene has a word-average of .300 or more, the chances are 68.9 to 4.3, or 16 to 1, that Webster, and not Dekker, wrote it," etc. Of course, this test has its limitations. It is necessary to take into consideration the nature of the subject-matter; the dramatist will lengthen his stride when he steps into the tragic sock. Furthermore, there may be very genuine collaboration between two authors, though one of them never writes

a word; in such case the test would be useless. But safeguarded by other tests and employed as cumulative evidence—as Mr. Pierce has employed it—it would prove a useful addition to the instruments of the investigator.

We have received from the Catholic Summer School Press of Fordham University a second edition of Dr. J. J. Walsh's "The Thirteenth, Greatest of Centuries." When this volume of lectures first made an appearance, two years ago, the *Nation* said that, paradoxical as was the thesis suggested by this title, no great difficulty existed in understanding the point of view from which it was deduced. "Name the thirteenth century, and immediately we think of Dante and his supreme vision; of the Latin hymns, . . . of St. Francis, who for a while made Christianity a reality of common life, of Thomas Aquinas, . . . of the Gothic cathedrals." The new edition of this narrative of the "age of faith," which is, of course, considered from the standpoint of a devout Roman Catholic, presents in its appendix "some authoritative opinions that will enable readers to see that many of the author's ideas . . . are shared by men who have devoted the better part of their lives to the special study of the questions on which their opinions are quoted." There are also certain corrections and revisions in the body of the text. As for the appendix and its strange assemblage of testimony, while it makes suggestive reading, it hardly goes to strengthen Dr. Walsh's book. Even though it is nowadays in order to attack the eighteenth century, whether from the base of politics, or of social theory, or of the arts, yet it is decidedly indiscreet to make any so general statement as that "The eighteenth century provided practically nothing that was to live and be a vital force in after times."

"Railroad Promotion and Capitalization in the United States," by Frederick A. Cleveland and Fred Wilbur Powell (Longmans, Green & Co.), is not, as one might be led to expect from the title, a study in present-day corporation finance. It is rather a history of transportation development with particular reference to the sources from which funds were drawn for canal and railway building, and to the methods employed to obtain these funds. As a background for the presentation of the main thesis, much detailed information concerning the general history of railways is given, some of it not heretofore published. The history of the transportation funding policy is traced carefully through all its stages—efforts to secure national aid and their meagre results, State enterprise, and its failure, State and national aid to private companies, and local and individual subsidies. The authors are disposed to be lenient with the early railway promoter, to consider him as a product of his social environment, and to question the right of present-day students to judge him by what they call "the new morality of to-day"—a point of view made more or less familiar nowadays by frequent repetition, but none the less difficult to accept. With regard to subsidies in general, the authors reach the conclusion that there is "evidence sufficient to show that the policy of granting subsidies to railroads was not only unnecessary, but also that it was

of questionable value to the companies themselves." The book contains an elaborate bibliography of nearly fifty pages.

The press of W. H. Lowdermilk & Co., Washington, has just issued a small, well-printed duodecimo, "Deck and Field," containing Frank W. Hackett's two addresses delivered before the Naval War College while he was assistant secretary of the navy, and ten others on certain commemorative occasions. He is rather slow generally in getting under way, and he labors too often under the disadvantage of a trite subject. Little that is new can be expected on July 4, or Flag Day, or at a Grand Army post meeting, for example; and we all know what an assistant secretary of the navy will say at the opening of a War College session. On the other hand, when he deals with things outside the ordinary course, he is very interesting. This is especially true of his account of the services and untimely death of the gallant Lieut.-Commander Charles W. Flusser, an heroic name, not so well known as it should be. Mr. Hackett was himself present, as an officer of the Miami, when that vessel was attacked by the rebel ram Albemarle in 1864, and he speaks with personal knowledge of the action. He does full justice to the memory of his noble commander, who was killed by fragments of the shell he had himself discharged against the enemy at so close a range that her armored side almost touched the muzzle of his own nine-inch gun. Mr. Hackett has performed a graceful act in thus recalling to mind Flusser's courage, professional skill, loyalty to the flag, and religious devotion.

Another group of tales has just appeared in The Romance of The East Series. It is a little volume of stories extracted from Somadeva's "Kathāsarit-sāgara," and edited by Dr. L. D. Barnett (Dutton & Co.). As Somadeva is a well-known author, and the text has before this been completely translated, it is necessary to say only that "The Golden Town" (as Dr. Barnett calls the whole volume) contains several excellent specimens of the work of the famous Hindu romancer.

The significance of the new work of Karl Kautsky, the protagonist of the theories of Social Democracy, entitled "Der Ursprung des Christentums" (Stuttgart: J. H. W. Dietz Nachfolger) lies in the fact that it undertakes in a scientific manner to furnish a full explanation of the genesis and early development of Christianity from the social democratic point of view. He substitutes the materialistic principle for the "individualistic" of the historians and the theologians, and accordingly does not find the active forces of historical development in the ideas and actions of individuals, but in the movements of the masses interpreted as a natural development. Accordingly Christianity is to be explained chiefly as an outgrowth not of the personality of such leaders as Jesus or Paul, but of the social and cultural agitations of the day, chiefly of the Zealots who were the most radical exponents of Messianic thought of Israel. This party, according to Josephus, had already produced a large number of claimants to the Messiahship, all of whom died a violent death, just as Jesus suffered the death of a rebel. Christianity itself originated in the communistic ideas and ideals that had been imperfectly voiced by the Essenes

and Therapeutes, and later Christianity transferred these theories to their idealized Jesus. The original communistic Christianity, however, was soon perverted through the influence of the wealthy and the development of a hierarchical episcopacy. Kautsky's methods of dealing with the sources are very arbitrary, after the principle of *stat pro ratione voluntas*. He regards as historically trustworthy the report of Acts on the communism of the first congregation in Jerusalem, but practically discards the rest of the book as he does the whole record of the four gospels, and entirely ignores the Pauline literature.

In the Oxford Higher French Series, edited by Leon Delbos (Clarendon Press), appears Victor Hugo's "Préface du 'Cromwell,'" rightly envisaged by its editor, Edmond Wahl, as a document of prime importance in the history of romanticism—the manifesto, indeed, and call to arms of the "Men of 1830." The introduction (in French), at once lively and solid, recalls vividly that time of *cénacles* and politico-literary ferment, traces with a firm hand Hugo's antecedents and consequents, and assigns to the "Préface" its place both in French literature and in general literary theory and criticism. Of special interest are the treatment of Hugo's central concept of the grotesque; the estimate of the omissions and limitations of the "Préface" considered as a statement of romanticist principles; and the plain inference that, in Hugo's fundamental truths concerning the relation of life to art, classic and romantic are agreed, while both are anticipated in Aristotle. This admirable edition is more than a college text-book for courses in poetics, criticism, French literature, or comparative literature; it is a book to possess.

"Robespierre et le procès du paratonnerre (1780-1784)," by Charles Vellay, is a pamphlet of thirty-one pages, giving in great detail, and largely from manuscript records, the story of Robespierre's argument before the courts of Arras, in defence of the right of his client, a resident of Arras, to put up a lightning-rod on his house. It is a graphic picture of the conditions of life in provincial France before the French Revolution. The help of the experts in Paris, Condorcet, Le Roy, Élie de Beaumont, and, in Dijon, Maret and Moreau, and of lawyers without end, was invoked to overrule the unfavorable decision of the local court. After much discussion in scientific bodies and in the press, Robespierre made the final and successful argument, and it was printed both at Arras and Paris, in pamphlets that have become very rare. Le Roy of the Paris Academy of Sciences wrote that Franklin told him the original condemnation of his lightning-rod by the Arras Court was quite inexcusable, for it was in use in France and Germany and Italy and Russia, as well as in Great Britain and America. All these facts Robespierre used with force and effect in his argument, and when the case was favorably decided Robespierre sent to Franklin a copy of his pamphlet, with a letter, unknown to his biographers, but now in the Library of the University of Pennsylvania. This letter was reproduced in photography a few years ago, and is reprinted by M. Vellay in this interesting little pamphlet. The argument itself is reprinted in the recent number of

the *Annales Révolutionnaires*, the organ of the Société des Études Robespierriennes, which is now publishing all of Robespierre's own writings and all historical documents. It thus helps us to a better knowledge of the epoch of the French Revolution, still in need of analysis. That two men of such different careers and characters as Robespierre and Franklin should have been thus brought in touch on one point, is of itself of interest. Even more interesting, however, is the light thrown by M. Vellay's pamphlet on the social conditions of France in the days of Robespierre's youth, and on his professional and political progress by his defence of Franklin's invention. The account of a solemn session of a local Parliament, in which Bishops, Clergy, Noblemen, and the Tiers État listened to a scientific description of his lightning rod, is a capital picture of public life in France in 1783.

Philipp Stein, editor of the *Bazar*, has died in Berlin at the age of fifty-five years. He was the author of works on Ibsen, Goethe, and other subjects.

From Berlin is announced the death, at the age of fifty, of Dr. Albert Römer, editor of *Korrespondenz für Kunst und Wissenschaft*, and the author of works on Fritz Reuter, and other authors.

Science.

Cave Vertebrates of America. By Carl H. Eigenmann. Publication No. 104, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

This work may be called a study of degenerative evolution, and although much of it is necessarily technical, the general facts and summaries are of wide interest. Dr. Eigenmann has left no department of his subject untouched, from an exhaustive chapter on the general consideration of caves to histological descriptions of the degenerate eyes of the inhabitants. The method of colonization of a cave with living creatures may be involuntary, as in the case of aquatic creatures carried into underground channels, or, as in the case of non-aquatic forms, voluntary; there following a gradual adaptation to new conditions. Among the factors at work may be mentioned the twilight entrance section, the section of fluctuating temperature, and the cave proper. In this last portion we have absence of light, constancy of temperature, and the absence of all, except imported, food.

One of the most interesting statements in the general chapter is that some widely-distributed cave species have independently arisen in different places from a far-ranging terrestrial species. Dr. Eigenmann is correct in stating that there are no blind birds, but the mention of the phoebe and owl is entirely aside from his subject, while the omission of the apteryx, with its reduced vision and increased tactile sense, is regrettable.

Thirty-five pages illustrated with

many excellent plates are devoted to the consideration of blind or cave vertebrates other than fishes; the eyes of the mole, the cave rat, the cave salamanders, and such reptiles as *Amphisbæna* and *Typhlops*. Although many of these eyes have an extremely primitive appearance, yet all are the result of degeneration from complex organs of vision, and hence are essentially adaptive. The active components of the organ, such as the optic muscles, are the first parts to degenerate.

Fishes occupy by far the major part of the monograph (about 175 pages), and especial attention is given to the life and development of the *Amblyopsidae* and of the Cuban blind fishes. In regard to the former the author concludes:

It is evident that the causes controlling the development (of the eye) are hereditarily established in the egg by an accumulation of such degenerative changes as are still notable in the later history of the eye of the adult.

Thus we are led to reflect on the inheritance of acquired characters. The sequence of development of the degenerate eyes of this group is summed up in these words:

The foundations of the eye are normally laid, but the superstructure, instead of continuing the plan with additional material, completes it out of the material provided for the foundations. The development of the foundation of the eye is phylogenetic, the stages beyond the foundations are direct.

In an interesting final chapter on the causes of individual and phyletic degeneration we read: "Considering the parts most affected and the parts least affected, the *degree of use* is the only cause capable of explaining the conditions." It is a pleasure to know that at least one scientist does not take refuge in the all-convenient explanation of mutation!

The typography and both the colored and the uncolored illustrations are up to the very high standard set by other publications of the Carnegie Institution.

When Prof. Charles S. Myers says, in the preface of his "Text-Book of Experimental Psychology" (Longmans), that the lack of such a volume has been keenly felt, he has in mind English schools, not American. Although the writer disavows, offering an introductory outline of general psychology or more than a guide through the psychological laboratory, he really has combined history, theory, and criticism to a far greater extent than most other authors of experiment manuals. In addition to the 155 investigations covering all the usual problems, there is a compact account of the latter and the various interpretations of them. Whether this is a virtue or a defect, each teacher will answer according to his own predilections for a more or less stern inductive handling of psychology; but Professor Myers's free mixture of authoritative statement, history, and direct inquiry is surely in line with the dominant tendency.