

tions of the Homeric question; for him, the *Iliad* is composed of "The Wrath of Achilles" by a first Homer, of additions celebrating the exploits of Hector by a second, or "Trojan," Homer, and of still further additions by a third Homer, whose touch is lighter, but whose contributions are episodic and not always relevant, and whose taste falls something short of his execution. These critical findings of the translator are reflected in the character of his abridgment; it includes most of the first and second Homers, but only the best parts of the third.

In the long and not uninteresting preface containing this contribution to Homeric vexation the author tells also in simple language the story of the *Iliad*, devotes a few pages to elementary directions for the pronunciation of proper names, and in the remaining two-thirds discusses the English hexameter. "English hexameter is subject to two inflexible laws: first, that every foot must begin with an accented syllable; second, that the several feet properly read must, within the laws of English versification, keep time." The second law is easily obeyed; but to the first, also, the translator yields consistent obedience, though the fact that "all monosyllabic connectives, the preposition, the article, and most pronouns and auxiliary verbs are unaccented," makes the difficulty of observing this law in the first foot of the line so great that the translator is aware of "no modern hexameter . . . wherein the law is adhered to rigidly." Other guiding principles are set forth, but are not exacting enough to be called laws; and the largeness of liberty seen to be allowable in English hexameter is so great that one is inclined to agree with the view which Mr. Cummings takes pains to criticise, that "the English language has no prosody," and to conclude that, after all, so far as hexameter is concerned, the only rules are those imposed by a delicate sense of the music of language.

As to the sum total of Mr. Cummings's translation, it neither descends to the lowest nor rises to the highest. That it is conscientiously done is evident enough, but its distinction, whether in form or content, is hardly such as to warrant a hope that it will not take its place with the forty or so unsuccessful attempts at hexameter translation which the author tells us have already appeared in print. Let us choose an example out of a possible great number, copying it without verse division:

Now, when a king he met, or man of uncommon distinction, him would he flatter in soldierly wise, but admonish him saying: "Sir, it becometh not thee to play the part of a coward; be an example; sit down, and make the soldiers do likewise. No wise thou knowest the real designs of King Agamemnon; this is a test, a ruse, that only, and vengeance will follow. Do not

we kings who were there know what took place in the council? Take care! Kings, vicegerents of Zeus, are highhanded; and this one holdeth his honor from Zeus, and Zeus, dread Arbiter, loves him."

This, with the exception of the rhythm, is good prose, but indifferent poetry. Of course, it would be absurd to demand in a translation of Homer the style of a Milton; but if verse form is to be used at all, diction and style should distinguish the work from the language of mere romantic story-telling, or even of Elizabethan prose:

Neque enim concludere verum  
Dixeris esse satis.

## Notes.

Early in December, Houghton Mifflin Company will publish a collection of Julia Ward Howe's later poems, entitled "At Sunset," upon which she was engaged at the time of her death; they were written mostly during the last eleven years, many of them for notable public occasions.

Volume XII, the last of the actual text of "The Cambridge Modern History," which will appear in a few days, is called "The Latest Age," and brings the history up to the present day.

An abridged edition, Professor Saintsbury's "Historical Manual of English Prosody," will be published by Macmillan, for use in schools and colleges.

About five hundred unpublished letters of Madame de Deffand to Horace Walpole, besides eleven letters by Walpole to her, are being prepared for publication by Dr. Paget Toynbee. The volume will be issued by Methuen.

The first volume of F. W. H. Migeod's "The Languages of West Africa" is announced by Kegan Paul.

Prof. Alexander Bugge has edited the first instalment of the "Diplomatarium Norvegicum," or documents concerning the relations of England and Norway in the Middle Ages.

The Putnams have in the press "A Short History of Women's Rights," by Eugene H. Hecker.

The Baker & Taylor Company will publish "Playground Technique and Playcraft," edited by Arthur and Lorna H. Leland. It is described as a text book in playground architecture, construction, equipment, organization, and supervision for playground committees, park boards, and manual training teachers. The same house announces "The Growth of the Gospels," by Prof. Flinders Petrie, the Egyptologist.

The Sixteenth International Congress of Orientalists, which was to have been held at Athens in the spring of 1911, has been postponed to the spring of 1912, presumably on account of the present disturbed conditions in Greece. The committee of organization includes the rector of the National University, the Mayor of Athens, representatives of the English, German, American, French, Italian, and Austrian archaeological institutes at Athens, and various professors of the Athens University. The secretary of the committee, on whom

the chief labor of the work of organization will devolve, is Spyridion P. Lambros, the well-known professor of history at the National University (Rue Mavrocordato, 10), to whom scholars and others interested are asked to send their names as members of the proposed congress. The committee announces that in connection with the congress, which will consist of the usual number of sections, special excursions will be planned to historical and archaeological sites of Greece and adjacent countries. A second bulletin, which is promised by the end of the year, will furnish further details regarding the precise date and duration of the congress.

A prospectus of "The History of Nations," edited by Henry Cabot Lodge, and published by John D. Morris & Company of Philadelphia, has just been received. Among other delightful bits of misinformation we find the following statement: "Volume 21, South America, by Philip P. Wells, Ph.D. . . . This able work is the only complete, up-to-date, reliable history of the South American nations ever published. . . . Dr. Wells delved deeply into hidden sources." Examination of the volume itself reveals the fact that it is almost entirely a translation of Deberle's "Histoire de L'Amérique du Sud," which has once before been appropriated, the first time by a Spaniard, whose work was translated into English by Adnah D. Jones. It seems to have a fatal attraction for literary pirates.

In the opinion of Francis McCullagh, expressed in an article on "Some Causes of the Portuguese Revolution," in the last number of the *Nineteenth Century*, the clerical question was largely artificial, however effective it may have been in overturning the monarchy:

The Portuguese, a proud people with a great history, are keenly sensitive to the fact that now, in the twentieth century, they do not occupy the same relative position in Europe which they occupied in the fifteenth century. They have declined, and are in consequence irritable and despondent. Suddenly they are told that this decline is due to clericalism.

Repetition finally convinced them of the truth of the assertion. But Mr. McCullagh does not think that the departure of the monks will make much difference to Portugal.

Volumes XIX and XX of Scribner's Memorial Edition of Meredith bring "The Amazing Marriage" and "Celt and Saxon." The latter novel, first published in the summer in a separate edition, was reviewed in the *Nation*, August 25.

Those who are familiar with the department of *Harper's Magazine* known as the Easy Chair, will find old friends in the volume of essays which W. D. Howells has just published under the title of "Imaginary Interviews" (Harpers). The book scarcely prompts one to a review of Mr. Howells's ideas, which contain nothing that is in any way revolutionary. Written deliberately with the mannerisms of chit-chat, they touch upon a limited range of agreeable American life. A vein of irony, never profound but always whimsical, coupled with a tender fancy and mellow philosophizing, ensures a wide reading for the book by those who enjoy a harmless play-acting with life and ideas.

Hilaire Belloc was apparently put to it

to discover a name for his new volume of essays, after he had dubbed his last entertaining book "On Everything"; but he finds plenty of material for his pen in the two-score of papers or so now gathered under the title "On Anything" (Dutton). In the paper On a Poet written upon the occasion of Swinburne's death, he moralizes upon time's changes in a poet's or author's fame, and gives an estimate of Swinburne's poetry. "In all his work the mere nature of South England drives him. . . . Whoever best knows that landscape and that sky best feels him." After speaking of Swinburne's feeling for rhythm and word, Mr. Belloc turns to his "paganism," and denies that quality to him in any true sense of the term. Swinburne belongs distinctly to the new world of yearning that came into being in the fourth century of our era. Among the other subjects treated in Mr. Belloc's customary vein are: Irony, People in Books, The Abstracted Man, The Method of History, Milton, Astarte, The Candor of Maturity, The Judgment of Robespierre.

In a well-printed, handy volume, uniform with his "Art of Naval Warfare," Smith, Elder & Co. have reprinted, under the title of "Sea Power and Other Studies," twelve essays written by Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge of the Royal Navy, at various times from 1898 to 1906. In these jingo days, it is refreshing to have the essential principles underlying the necessity and use of a fleet expounded by an author of such sound judgment, wide experience, and deep study. To these advantages are added a simple style and a happy knack of illustration which make the understanding of these articles as easy as their reading is agreeable. No one should venture to discuss naval history or naval strategy who is not thoroughly conversant with Sir Cyprian's contributions to these subjects.

As an appendix to the volume of collected "European and African Addresses" (Putnam), by Theodore Roosevelt, there are added the presentation speeches of the chancellor and Dr. Henry Goudy at the Oxford convocation, when the honorary degree of doctor of civil laws was conferred upon the ex-President. Lord Curzon of Kedleston thus hailed Mr. Roosevelt as he took his place for presentation:

Hic vir, hic est, quem promitti sæpius audis,  
Cuius la adventum pavidi cessare comete  
Et septemgemini turbant trepidæ ostia Nil!

And no less happy was he in admitting Mr. Roosevelt to the degree:

Strenuissime, insignissime, civium toto  
orbe terræ hodie agentium, summum ingentis reipublicæ magistratum bis incorrupte gestum, ter forsitan gesturæ, augustissimis regibus par, hominum domitor, beluarum ubique vastator, homo omnium humanissime, nihil a te alienum, ne nigerrimum quidem, putans, ego, auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis, admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Iure Civili, honoris causa.

Was the chancellor, in the belief that Latin is not included in the ex-President's omniscience, indulging a sense of humor? There are in the present volume nine of Mr. Roosevelt's addresses. Several of his shorter extemporaneous speeches are omitted. Lawrence F. Abbott contributes in the preface a narrative of the trip, and an appreciation of Mr. Roosevelt.

Rarely are the letters written home by the enterprising traveller to his family of

any value to others. Still more rarely are Chautauquan "Readings" of any value at all. To combine the laments and felicitations on coffee, dinners, beds, and trains dear to the one, with the sportive didacticism and ponderous colloquialisms supposed necessary to the other, and thence provide anything worth looking at twice, would be an amazing feat of literary artistry. Dr. John D. Fitz-Gerald, in his "Rambles in Spain" (Crowell) has had no such luck. His book contains all these impossible elements, and makes nothing of them but impossibility. But the illustrations, from photographs, are many and good. In combining them with Baedeker an ingenious reader could find much gain. Indeed, Dr. Fitz-Gerald confesses very fairly his own indebtedness: but who ever before called Baedeker's exactness "meticulous"?

"The World a Spiritual System" (Macmillan), by James H. Snowden, is an attempt to put into popular form the outlines of theistic idealism. The author does not claim to contribute anything new to the discussion of the ontological problems, but simply brings together, for the use of the non-technical reader, most of the views of contemporary philosophical theists. As one might expect, the resulting picture of God resembles a composite photograph of the Roycean Absolute and the old-fashioned Creator. Still, it must be said that on the whole the book presents a very readable account of a certain important metaphysical view.

"Maritime Law" (London: Effingham & Wilson), by Albert Saunders, is the second enlarged edition of a work originally published in 1901, and reprinted twice since that time. The original feature of the book is that it is in narrative form and illustrates the law on the subject by the history of a ship from and including the agreement to build her, until she becomes a total loss. It also treats of the rights and liabilities of the ship in war time and the rights and liabilities of neutrals. As a whole, the work is well done, although to an American lawyer its value is impaired by the fact that no reference is made to American cases.

The department of English and comparative literature of Columbia University has just issued a "Bibliographical Sketch of Anglo-Saxon Literature," which has been prepared by one of the department's professors. Designed to save labor in the classroom, it presents in an orderly arrangement the titles of works with which every student of the subject should be acquainted. The list does not pretend to be complete, but comprises the latest and most comprehensive references. It is divided topically, books of general bearing being followed by the special treatises on all the individual Anglo-Saxon works. Considering the enormous amount of useless articles which have been written on the literature of this early period, an authoritative guide like this will be welcomed by many a bewildered neophyte; for few professors of Anglo-Saxon take pains to give titles distinctly or to write them in more than the illegibly abbreviated form known to Germans.

A second volume completes Prof. John W. Cunliffe's edition of Gascoigne in the Cambridge English Classics (Putnam), and ends what must have been a laborious and tedious

task for the editor. He has had the satisfaction of including several pamphlets which have hitherto been almost inaccessible, but none of these is of great importance. The text, as he states in the prefatory note, was set up in part from the original quartos in the Cambridge University Library, but mainly from photographs of printed pamphlets and manuscripts in the British Museum and the Bodleian. This method, taken with the tried accuracy of the Cambridge Press and of Professor Cunliffe, is assurance for a literal reproduction down to the last suspended *e* and *t*. As in all the volumes of this series, the long *s* is not used, and the confusion of *u* and *v* and of *i* and *j* is not followed. The reproductions from manuscript include "The Tale of Hemetes the Heremyte" from Royal MS. 18 A xlviil in the British Museum, and "The Grief of Joye" from Royal MS. 18 A lxi in the British Museum. "The Spoyle of Antwerpe," from the anonymous tract of 1576, is printed in an appendix. As this report to the Privy Council of the sack of Antwerp by the Spaniards is now known to be Gascoigne's, and is indeed one of the most interesting things he ever wrote, it might well have been printed in the body of the text in the larger type.

"The Political Theories of Martin Luther" (Putnam), by Luther Hess Waring, is the expansion of a thesis presented in candidity for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the George Washington University. What parts of it constituted the original dissertation we are not informed. The method pursued appears to have been the fatal pigeon-hole process which has brought so much discredit upon the doctor fabrication of our universities from highest to lowest. There is throughout little evidence that the author has gained any such grasp upon his subject as would entitle him to express opinions about it. The merit of modesty cannot be denied him. A very large part of the book consists of quotations from other writers most impartially distributed. They range from Macaulay and Ranke to Col. Bryan as editor of the world's famous orations; and these quotations are thrown in at every turn as if they, and not the author's own studies, had been the starting-point of the book. If we may speak of a leading thesis at all, it is that Luther was the originator and inspirer of most of the ideas as to the nature, the functions, and the limits of the state which have shaped the politics of the modern world. That we hold to be an entirely indefensible thesis. There is hardly an idea in Luther's many utterances on the subject which may not be found in far more consistent and emphatic form in a long series of writers from Ockham, through Wycliffe and the leaders in the conciliar conflicts of the fifteenth century, down to Erasmus and Thomas More. Dr. Waring's defect is that of many others who have touched this subject, a lack of familiarity with the long movement of European affairs between the complete dominance of the mediæval system and its overturn in the Reformation. With no wish to dim the splendor of Luther's commanding personality or diminish ever so slightly his influence upon his time, the careful historian must warn against ascribing to him originality in ideas not really his own. Luther's enduring fame will rest upon his



skill and tact in focussing the obvious tendencies of his day upon one supreme object—the freeing of as large a part of Germany as possible from the overgrown pretensions of the Roman religious system. He was a humane theologian, a preacher of righteousness, and a pastor to his people, not a speculative political philosopher. His utterances on political questions were invariably called forth by the practical emergencies arising from his leadership in the process of transformation through which Germany was passing. They were not, like those of Calvin, for example, the expression of a carefully worked out scheme of human government.

The Prince Society (Boston) has issued the first volume of "Colonial Currency Reprints," which will include a re-issue of all the known tracts on currency appearing in Massachusetts from 1682 to 1751, fifty-eight in number. The interest and importance of this series in history and in economics can hardly be over-estimated, for the experience of the colony in paper issues gave rise to a fruitful discussion. The beginnings of "credit," the establishment of funds by which real property came to be represented by credits, and so passed into circulation and usually into abuse, is an early chapter in banking in which Massachusetts ran through many and thorough experiments. The real scarcity of a circulating medium furnished an excuse for resorting to expedients that, in the hands of oppressed debtors, only increased the evil conditions and imposed a heavy tax upon the creditor and the community.

The editor of this series, Andrew McF. Davis, has passed many years in the study of certain phases of this question, and has already published an elaborate history of currency and banking in Massachusetts. He now submits the sources from which he drew his material, and no one could be better equipped for the task. His introduction traces the history of the subject from the first fund of 1681, which was intended to benefit a small company of men constituting the "fundors," by a form of bills of exchange, to the final redemption and disappearance of provincial bills of credit, under which the credit of the colony had been so greatly affected. It is rather suggestive to find the first steps in this progress limited to a "credit with discreet men," but little time passed before the "bank of credit," pure and simple, with an undefined basis of substantial property or of discreet men behind it, was proposed; and from that to the use of individual or government credit without actual property behind it, and having a forced circulation, was a simple process, controlled, as it was, by the needs or interests of the borrower. It is all the more suggestive that such a scheme for a real paper currency, intended to take the place of coin, arose at a time when the charter of the colony had been annulled, and its political affairs were in confusion; also, that the first serious plan involved some of the leading names in official circles, as well as some business men, and that the expected high profits were to be shared among those who had the power to give or deny the recognition and endorsement of government. In fact, Blackwell's bank plan of 1686 savors much of modern methods in finance and in politics. That bank never

went into operation, and mere discussion ended and practice began with the issue of bills of credit by the colony in 1690, to meet the cost of the expedition against Quebec. Having tasted of the ease in postponing payment of current charges, the government entered upon the practice of issuing bills for meeting its expenses, and of redeeming them out of the proceeds of taxes in future years. Silver disappeared from circulation, the bills depreciated, and from 1714 the discussion of causes and remedies was active. This volume, containing sixteen of the issues, carries the question to 1721. The elaborate bibliographical notes of the editor and his evident mastery of the subject promise to make this series of volumes unique in the history of early experiences in credit currency.

In "Beyond the Mexican Sierras" (McClurg), Dillon Wallace, the author of a recent book on Labrador, has given an account of a trip from San Francisco down the coast to Sinaloa and Tepic in 1907. Mr. Wallace has a pleasant journalistic style, and has acquired the usual newspaper man's conceptions about the great harm which the Spaniards did to the unfortunate aborigines. Students of Mexican affairs are already quite familiar with this type of traveller, but it may cause a smile that any one should still be found to assert that the Indians were forced under pain of death "to relinquish their old ideas of morality and religion and accept instead bigotry, sensualism, and superstition." As long as American writers persist in thus misjudging the work of Spanish civilization, just so long will American readers be unable to understand and appreciate the present conditions of Latin American society. The author also indulges in the usual panegyrics about Diaz: "The most remarkable man in the world." It is a pity that so few writers are able to adopt an unbiased, well-balanced view towards the great Mexican dictator. In general, Mr. Wallace spins the customary traveller's yarn, like any other garrulous wanderer making his first trip to the tropics. He is tremendously impressed with the moist heat, the poor food, the dirt, and the insects. He cannot speak the language, but he does not hesitate to treat everything with frank criticism. His work will naturally be referred to by those who are contemplating a journey down the west coast, either by steamer or over the newly completed extension of the Southern Pacific Railroad; but any one familiar with Mexico, outside of the big cities, will find little that is new and much that is commonplace. Abominable Spanish spelling and too much minute personal detail are faults which are only partly relieved by such pleasing discoveries as the following: "I arose, and looking to the north saw the Great Dipper and Polaris just above the horizon and knew that morning was near, for in that latitude Polaris is visible only in the morning." The illustrations are very attractive.

The monthly publication of statistics which summarize a city's activity in all branches of public service is a recently established Italian custom worthy of a greater following in America. The *Bollettino Statistico Mensile* of Padua, a commune of 66,000 inhabitants, is a well-printed, small folio pamphlet, usually of about

twenty pages of statistical tables, without other explanatory text than that supplied by occasional foot-notes. In the month under consideration, the Weather Bureau reports "a slight shock of earthquake." The tables analyzing the vital statistics include two which indicate where death has left minors as public charges, and cases where minors are likely to become public charges, and where the law makes special provision for their guardianship. The tables on sanitation and hygiene indicate a well-developed system of care for the public health. There are interesting details of preventive and curative measures in regard to tuberculosis; and there are the statistics of pellagra, which, including the rural sections of the commune, show over a thousand persons in such a condition as to claim a free distribution of salt, so taxed by the state that its purchase is impossible by the very poor. At the same time, among the hills of more prosperous Tuscany, Florence reported a single death from pellagra, that of a non-resident. The prevalence of this disease involves a not inconsiderable expense for inspecting flour and grain, a commodity also so subject to taxation that purchasers are found even for what has been ruined by blight or storage. In spite of its rich soil, Italy has not yet learned how to raise enough grain to supply home consumption.

Padua shows itself to be a progressive city, possessing a Pasteur Institute, exercising a medical supervision over licensed wet-nurses, and over infants nursed artificially at the commune's expense. Its sanitary inspection extends to private as well as public schools, and cares for the health of children in the elementary schools, to whom it furnishes luncheons, "gratuitous, semi-gratuitous, and paid," in an interesting variety of forms. In the chemical and microscopical examination of foods, the analysis of water, its bacteriological laboratory, the supervision of public baths, of the municipal slaughter-houses, and of horses used in street cabs, it is abreast of the times. Padua possesses a communal library, a people's library, beside one in the suburb of Ponte di Brenta, and a teachers' library in its Department of Education. The number of readers of books and manuscripts reported by the Biblioteca Comunale in the month of July was 71, and the total for seven months of the year, not excluding repetitions, was 1,483, while in the Biblioteca Popolare Comunale di Città, the readers in July were 523, with a total of 4,271 for seven months. This difference in patronage is due to the fact that the communal libraries in Italy are generally old institutions, administered in the interests of the leisured classes, and are accessible, as a rule, only at hours and under conditions generally prohibitive for those employed during the ordinary working hours of the day. People's libraries are of recent growth, open on evenings and holidays, and consist of books specially chosen with regard to the supposed requirements of the working classes.

"Europe since 1815," by C. D. Hazen (Holt), is a valuable new college textbook on the history of the nineteenth century. It has over seven hundred pages of text, fourteen good maps, and excellent critical bibliographies. In arrangement of material the author has rather neatly

steered between the Scylla of a strictly chronological treatment, in which a dozen different countries are kept moving side by side to the bewilderment of the student, and the Charybdis of a purely topical treatment which too often results in nothing but a dozen different histories of as many different countries. The author brings down together the histories of Austria, Prussia, France, and Italy; then he returns to the starting point, 1815, and traces the histories of England, Russia, Turkey, and the lesser states. The fact that the period prior to 1870 fills no more than half the volume shows that Professor Hazen is properly aware that the new generations ought to know what has been happening in the last forty years in the Far East, in Africa, and in the colonial world, as well as in western Europe since the unification of Italy and Germany. Professor Hazen's narrative is accurate, scholarly, and interesting. At times it even has a literary flavor. But many passages, especially in the first half of the volume, could with advantage have been made more brief, definite, and crisp, by a freer use of the blue pencil.

The treasures of the papyri that have been made accessible to the general student have up to now been restricted mainly to the literary fragments. We have had Timotheus and Bacchylides, and Professor Capps has just edited four plays of Menander. But of the many thousands of unliterary papyri we have had only general and unsatisfactory accounts. Dr. Milligan's "Selections from the Greek Papyri" (Putnams) is accordingly a timely volume. After a brief but comprehensive sketch of the history of the various discoveries, we have a selection of fifty-five papyri texts, varying in length from a few lines to a couple of pages, extending from 310 B. C. to the fifth century A. D. The contents are equally varied. There are marriage contracts, a letter of Epicurus to a child, letters of introduction, private family letters, dreams, incantations, census notices, law suits, invitations to dinner, an impudent letter of a boy to his father, etc. In many cases the writers are very illiterate and the spelling is obviously phonetic. The vagaries of syntax are often most remarkable—features which make them extremely valuable for scientific study. Dr. Milligan is interested mainly in the light which such documents throw on the language of the New Testament, but the book is valuable for the ordinary teacher of Greek, in bringing home to his classes the human side of Greek life. A translation is appended to every fragment. These are not always accurate, but sometimes the text is obscure, and the peculiar syntax makes the meaning uncertain. The commentary is too brief and is filled mainly with quotations from the New Testament, to the number of nearly 500. Much more attention could well be given in the notes to linguistic matters, and in cases of great illiteracy the text might well be rewritten in normal Greek. The section on language in the introduction is inadequate, and the assistance of the translation still leaves many difficulties unexplained. But in spite of these defects the book fills a real need.

The death is announced, in his eighty-fifth year, of Canon William Ince, regius professor of divinity at Oxford since 1878. He wrote "Some Aspects of Christian Truth" and "Religion in the University of Oxford."

George Frederick Seward, financier and statesman, and nephew of William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, died last Monday at his home in New York city in his seventy-first year. At the age of twenty-one he entered public life, going as consul to Shanghai. In 1864, he was made consul-general of the United States for all China, and from 1876 to 1880 he was United States minister to China. For his service there he received the order of the Knights of Dannebrog from Denmark, and from France that of the Dragon of Annam. As an author he wrote on "Chinese Immigration in Its Social and Economical Aspects," "System of Taxation of New York," and other kindred topics.

## Science.

*Sweet Peas.* By Horace J. Wright. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. 65 cts. net.

*Pansies, Violas, and Violets.* By William Cuthbertson. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. 65 cts. net.

About half a billion sweet pea seeds, weighing forty tons, are distributed every year by British growers alone! Twelve books on this flower have been printed in the English language, besides the Report of the Sweet Pea Bicentenary, and England also has had, since 1905, a Sweet Pea Annual. In view of such facts, one cannot but agree with Mr. Cuthbertson that the sweet pea is the first garden flower of the present day. It owes this popularity partly to its fragrance, partly to the wide range of color, and the recent amazing improvements in tints, details of form, length of stem, and size and number of flowers. Although first introduced into England from Sicily in the seventeenth century, it was not till forty years ago, when Henry Eckford began to devote his life to the improvement of this flower, that its possibilities in the way of varied beauty began to be recognized. He not only originated some seventy new varieties, but in the case of most of them he had the patience to fix them, so that there was no danger of reversion to the types which he had used in hybridizing. Hence, most of the Eckford varieties come true. Not so with the Countess Spencer varieties, which were first shown ten years ago. They created a sensation because both the standards and the wings of the flower were beautifully waved; but they were put on the market in too great haste, wherefore, to the present day, the purchaser of Spencer seeds cannot always feel sure of what they will grow up into. A third type, known as the

Unwin, appeared in the same year as the Countess Spencer; its standard and wings are almost as much, and quite as gracefully, waved, but Mr. Unwin held back his creations for fixation, and the Spencer type thus won the race.

More than five hundred varieties of sweet peas are obtainable, and yet the public clamors for more. "The raiser of new varieties finds many swans; the grower who purchases them finds geese, and wretchedly poor ones at that," says Mr. Wright; yet he would by no means discourage the quest after further novelties; we have not yet got the true yellow or the true blue flower, and as long as we have not these delightful colors there is plenty of room for experimenting. The exquisite primrose tint of the Clara Curtis, of which there is a reproduction in color in Mr. Wright's book, fosters the hope that a deeper yellow may soon be found. There are seven other colored plates of particularly beautiful varieties, and in one of his chapters the author gives a list of fifty desirable kinds to cultivate. The bulk of his attractive and useful book is given up to directions concerning cultivating, manuring, thinning, mulching, spring and autumn seeding, raising flowers for exhibitions, etc.

No less ornamental and useful is Mr. Cuthbertson's book on pansies. The pansy, as we know it, is as modern as the improved sweet pea, and quite as many men have spent their lives in originating new varieties. Sixty years ago only one kind of pansy was grown in Great Britain; to-day their number is legion, and in popularity this flower is second only to the sweet pea. It was found that by giving the common Heart's-ease good cultivation and selecting seeds from the best kinds year after year, it could be greatly improved in size and color; later the hybridizer applied his subtle arts and a new world of floral beauty resulted. He is still busy, for there is plenty of room for new colors, markings, and details of form. One of the most interesting chapters is concerned with the difficulties the hybridizers have to contend with in preventing diverse insects from spoiling their well-laid plans. Mr. Cuthbertson traces the history and development of violas and violets as well as of pansies, besides giving cultural directions. There is a calendar for the pansy-grower, showing what should be done each month in the year, and there are eight colored plates of choice varieties.

"Food Inspection" (Van Nostrand), by Hugh A. Macewen, is a rather elementary book for general information, and to aid intending inspectors to obtain the knowledge required for the prescribed examinations. The text is pretty well adapted to these ends, and a number of excellent illustrations add to the beauty and usefulness of the book. The first part deals with meat, as seen in the abattoir, treating in