

already knows all about it. Mr. Finck's literary activity is not confined to music. He is the author of several interesting books of travel and of the well-known "Romantic Love and Personal Beauty." His intellectual equipment in other branches than music enables him to treat his subject in the spirit of a man of general culture who has a special knowledge of music, and thus gives these volumes a charm which the work of a critic whose mind runs in musical ruts only could not attain.

The groundwork of Mr. Finck's volumes on Wagner is biographical, the discussions of his theories and his works being interspersed in proper chronological order. In this biography Mr. Finck has brought together the most interesting portion of a great deal of material which heretofore existed only in separate form—*e. g.*, the letters to Liszt, Uhlig, Fischer, and F. Heine, Praeger's "Wagner as I Knew Him," and fifteen important letters to Frau Wille, printed in 1887 in the "Deutsche Rundschau." The strictly biographical portion is, however, far more than a mere compilation or a mere recital of events. The matter is so arranged and commented upon that we have Wagner's character shown us. It is a pleasanter character than those who have judged the man from hearsay only might have expected; but from what the writer of this notice saw of Wagner at several gatherings in Bayreuth, and has heard from those who knew him well, he had many amiable traits. Some will perhaps criticise Mr. Finck for having devoted so much space to quotations from hostile criticisms and personal abuse of Wagner. Hanslick, who was the head of the anti-Wagnerite clan, and thus scored one of the greatest failures on record, deserves to be quoted, because his charming literary style has given him, however unduly, a prominent position among German musical critics. But the prominence which many whom the author quotes have attained is the kind which is enjoyed by the cur that barks at a noble St. Bernard. Yet these criticisms serve a useful purpose. They show that if, as his enemies claimed, Wagner was at war with the musical world, it was the musical world which first threw down the gauntlet.

In depicting Wagner's character the author naturally devotes considerable space to the composer's relations with his first wife, Wilhelmine or Minna Planer, an actress, whom he married in 1836. Mr. Finck has gathered a number of interesting opinions concerning Minna. Richard Pohl, after praising her as "a faithful, self-sacrificing wife, who bore with him long and devotedly all cares and privations," adds, "But she was a prosaic, domestic woman, who never understood her husband." An eye-witness, Friedrich Pecht, after speaking of her as "pretty" and "most amiable," says that "Yet, after all, hers was a sober, unimaginative soul, entirely devoted to her husband . . . but without a conception of his greatness." If Wagner, with the world against him, needed recognition anywhere, he needed it in his own home. Yet here apparently he never got what he, like every other artist, most longed for. Fourteen years after the production of "Rienzi," Minna asked Praeger, "Now, honestly, is Richard such a great genius?" On another occasion, when Wagner was bitterly animadverting on his treatment by the public, she said, "Well, Richard, why don't you write something for the gallery?" It can readily be imagined how such a suggestion must have galled Wagner. In regard to his readiness to borrow and receive presents of money, which greatly distressed her, he tried to convince her that "Whoever helps me only helps my art through me, and the sacred cause for which I am fighting." But this point of view entirely escaped her. "To her," says Mr. Finck, "it seemed vastly more important that he should preserve his social respectability by writing pot-boilers, and not accepting moneypresents, than that he should create unremunerative works of genius for the edification of future generations." Yet for twenty-five years this ill-mated couple lived together, and when the final separation came it caused Wagner great grief, and, according to Tappert, an intimate friend of Wagner's, "the Meister himself held the memory of his first wife in great honor; it annoyed him to read disparaging allusions to Minna." He contributed liberally to her support after their separation, and a few weeks before she

died (in 1866) she wrote a letter, which did her great credit, in which she denied the charge trumped up against her husband that, while himself reveling in luxury, he had allowed her to starve. Poor Minna! What an irony of fate that this estimable woman, who would have made such a capital wife for some grocer or butcher or other honest tradesman, should have been mated to one of the greatest men of genius the world has ever known!

Mr. Finck thus sums up the case: "The world is apt to side with the woman in a case like this, especially if her partner is of the *irritable genus*, a man of genius. No doubt Minna had much to endure, and deserves all our pity; but that her husband is not alone to blame in this matter is shown by the extremely happy and contented life he led with his second wife."

We have gone somewhat at length into this episode because its treatment gives a very good idea of Mr. Finck's method of gathering new material, grouping it effectively, and finally giving the case to the jury—his readers. The general outlines of Wagner's life are pretty well known, but the author has filled them in with many details new to English readers at least, and thus given us a biography which is a fascinating character-study of the man and at the same time a trenchant polemic for his works.



History of the Christian Church. By Philip Schaff, D.D., LL.D. Vol. VII. Modern Christianity: The Swiss Reformation. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.) "This volume concludes the history of the productive period of the Reformation in which Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin were the different actors. It follows the Protestant movement in German, Italian, and French Switzerland to the close of the sixteenth century." A certain pathetic interest attaches to this volume, because it was interrupted suddenly by a stroke of paralysis at Lake Mohonk last summer. The author's health has, however, been so far restored that, with the aid of a friend, he has been able to complete it, and he looks forward in the hope that he may be able to bring the History of the Christian Church down to the present time, according to his original plan. Professor Schaff is a natural historian; that is, his instinct and spirit are historical rather than dogmatic or controversial. He is not imaginative, but he has that power of intellectual imagination which enables him to put himself in the place of other thinkers and to get their point of view. History is also to him a course of development. His book is, therefore, not a mere record of opinions measured by a standard of his own, but is really an account of the development of Christian faith and life. As an illustration, we note his tracing of the modern doctrine of infant salvation to Zwingli, and through Zwingli to the ancient Greek fathers. A considerable portion of his book is taken up with an exposition of Calvin and his theology. The contrast between Calvin and Augustine he declares to be that Augustine would not have believed in the Gospel were it not for the Church, and Calvin would not have believed in the Church were it not for the Gospel. With the Lutheran and Augustinian system, the Calvinistic rests redemption on the doctrine of the universal damnation of the whole human race on the sole ground of Adam's sin. Dr. Schaff's characterization of Augustinianism and Calvinism reminds us of the more eloquent but less judicial characterization afforded by James Martineau in his "Types of Ethical Theory." A chapter discusses at some length, and in a judicial spirit, the tragical burning of Servetus, and, in that connection, truthfully describes the intolerance of the age, both Catholic and Protestant. We do not believe that the student will find anywhere else, in so brief a compass, so good an exposition of Calvinism as in the latter half of this volume.

The Year-Book of Science—1893. Edited for 1892 by Professor T. G. Bonney. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.) Although the title on the outside of the book reads 1893, this is, of course, a summary of the world's work in science for 1892. Such summaries are a real necessity, and the one before us shows evidence of much work. The specialists who have assisted in its production are among the great scientists of Great Britain. The work, being done by different men, naturally varies in its grade. It seems hardly fair to criticise the latest department added to the scope of the work—anthropology—but it is the one to which we first turned, and is very meager. Seven papers only are summarized, and those represent only two journals—"L'Anthropologie" and the "Journal of the Anthropological Society of Great Britain and Ireland." Apparently Germany, Italy, America, did nothing in that field during 1892. We are assured, however,

that this department will be enlarged if the book succeeds. It is but fair to say that the other departments are fuller. Physics, as is natural, has the greatest development, and chemistry and geology seem to be adequately treated. Biology is treated under animal and botanical subdivisions, with occasional references to American workers. It is not clear why Professor Bonney places anthropology as a sub-section under geology and mineralogy, and some might ask why bacteriology is inserted under animal biology. While it is easy to make little criticisms upon any such work, we gladly add that, as a whole, it is well done.

The Poetic Works of John Gay do not form a very important addition to The Muses' Library, but it is doubtful if that collection will contain anything more readable. Gay's pen had a wonderful lightness. He was never impassioned or inspired, but he was possessed of a keen sense of humor and a delightful faculty of saying a happy thing in a felicitous way. He belongs among the group of men who are sometimes called the Little Masters. His first poem appeared in 1709, and he belonged, therefore, in what is known as the Augustan Age of English poetry. When "Rural Sports" appeared, in 1713, Dr. Johnson "damned it with faint praise" by saying of it that it was never contemptible and never excellent. The remark was characteristic, not only in its well-balanced expression of judgment, but also in its failure to recognize some very excellent qualities of versification. It is in his narrative work that Gay is found at his best, and his Fables are undoubtedly the most popular and widely read of all his works. In his own time, as everybody knows, the "Beggars' Opera" had a great success, and brought him, not only the kind of attention he cared for, but also very large financial returns. This edition, which is in two volumes, like its predecessors in the same series, is very compactly and substantially made, and the editorial work appears to have been done with thorough competency and care. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.)

Sermons on the Old Testament, by S. R. Driver, D.D., are in reality rather essays than sermons. It is Dr. Driver's purpose to show the constructive side of his thought, and that the value and power of the Bible have not been robbed by historical criticism. It is, indeed, doubtful to us if devout souls were at any time ever moved by ideas of authority and verbal inspiration as much as by the intrinsic truth of the holy writings. Therefore it is probable that not religion as much as theology changes attitude by reason of critical scholarship. The relation of the Bible and human souls is in stable equilibrium. Therefore Dr. Driver, nor any other, need feel surprise that, after all our fears about higher criticism, the practical conditions of salvation appear to remain unaltered. If this be true, the need for apology is not great, and should be addressed to polemical opponents rather than to devout Christian believers. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.)

The Simple Adventures of a Memsahib is the attractive title of a book by Sara Jeannette Duncan, whose "American Girl in London" and "Social Departure" are among the cleverest combinations of travel-talk and fiction ever written. The present book follows something the same lines in a new field. It tells with great vivacity and humor the life of a young married couple in India. The peculiarities of native servants, the mysteries of housekeeping, the amenities and little jars of Anglo-Indian society, the curiosities of shopping and traveling, the varieties of visiting globe-trotters—all these and countless other odds and ends of the Far East are served up in an acceptable and amusing fashion. Mr. F. H. Townsend's illustrations are sometimes quite effective and sometimes rather queer. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

Readers of *The Outlook* have not forgotten Miss Anna Fuller's admirable character-studies in the "Pratt Portraits," sketches full of keen insight and marked by delicate and accurate characterization. From the same hand comes a vivacious and taking little story, *A Literary Courtship*, the scene of which is laid in Colorado, and one great charm of which is the very effective reproduction of the Colorado atmosphere. The story is light, it is frankly and at times bluntly told, and is in an entirely different vein from Miss Fuller's earlier book. The breezy element which runs through it was perhaps caught in the atmosphere in which it was written, for it is certainly a very unconventional bit of writing. That is its charm. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$1.)

Laws and Properties of Matter. By R. T. Glazebrook. Modern Science Series. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.) Of this book the author in his preface says: "It aims at making clear, to one who wishes to understand something of physics, the meaning of the terms applied to matter, and the principal properties it possesses." The scope of the work is sufficiently indicated by the title and this quotation. No doubt Mr. Glazebrook has done the work as well as any one would, but it is difficult to

see just who need it. A text-book, on the one hand, and a handy pocket book of mathematics applied in physics, on the other, meet a need. But a combination of the two, with an attempt at readable style, is scarcely likely to be popular.

Val-Maria: A Romance of the Time of Napoleon I., by Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull, is a singularly beautiful book in its printing. Indeed, it is a pretty, touching, and tender little tale. The character of Felix, the boy sculptor, is a highly spiritualized ideal—an etherealized boy, who dies quite young, after having completed a bust of Napoleon as that hero existed in his pure and holy imagination. The Emperor is covered with shame and confusion, as he deserved, when he looks upon it and realizes how far below that ideal he is sunken. (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.)



Literary Notes

—Four pages in "The Critic" of July 1 are devoted to an illustrated account of the exhibits of the leading American publishing houses at the World's Fair.

—The average English sale of Henry Drummond's several works is 100,000 copies. The English editions are sold at 1s., except "Natural Law" and "Tropical Africa," which are published at 3s. 6d.

—Mr. William H. Goodyear has finished work on the proofs of an illustrated History of Roman and Mediæval Art, for the Chautauqua Reading Circle. The first edition of twenty-five thousand copies is now in press.

—A tablet was recently set up in the cottage at Netherstowney in which Coleridge one hundred years ago wrote his best-known verse, including "The Ancient Mariner." Ernest Hartley Coleridge, grandson of the poet, read a paper.

—It is stated in the London "Academy" that the American subscription to the Shelley Memorial amounts to seventy-two pounds more than a fourth of the total sum received. The amount in all is insufficient to carry out the original scheme, which was to establish a Shelley Library and Museum at Horsham. It is now proposed to use the money in founding a Shelley annual prize for English literature at the Horsham Grammar School.

—Lord Coleridge, in his presidential address at the Salt Schools, Saltaire, England, not long ago, told this story. Browning lent him one of his works to read, and afterward, meeting the poet, the Lord Chief Justice said to him: "What I could understand I heartily admired, and parts ought to be immortal; but as to much of it I really could not tell whether I admired it or not, because for the life of me I could not understand it." Browning replied: "If a reader of your caliber understands ten per cent. of what I write, I think I ought to be content."



Books Received

- D. APPLETON & CO., NEW YORK
Linn, Thomas, M.D. The Health Resorts of Europe. \$1.50.
Stebbing, Rev. T. R. R. A History of Crustacea. \$2.
Needell, Mrs. J. H. Lucia, Hugh, and Another. \$1.
Ebers, Georg. Story of my Life. \$1.25.
- THE BAKER & TAYLOR CO., NEW YORK
Dixon, Rev. A. C. Milk and Meat. (Twenty-four Sermons.) \$1.25.
Guirey, Rev. George. The Hallowed Day. \$1.25.
Strong, Rev. Josiah, D.D. The New Era. 75 cts.
- FORDS, HOWARD & HULBERT, NEW YORK
Beecher, Henry Ward. Original Plymouth Pulpit Sermons. New Edition. (Ten volumes in five.) Volume IV.—Sept., 1871–Sept., 1872. For set, five volumes, \$12.50, net.
- GINN & CO., BOSTON
Newcomer, Alphonso G. A Practical Course in English Composition. 90 cts.
Happgood, Olive C. School Needlework. 60 cts.
- HARPER & BROS., NEW YORK
Bishop, William Henry. A House-Hunter in Europe. \$1.50.
Brackett, Anna C. Woman and the Higher Education. \$1.
Creevey, Caroline A. Recreations in Botany. \$1.50.
Doyle, A. Conan. The Refugees. \$1.75.
Hutton, Laurence. Edwin Booth. 50 cts.
- HENRY HOLT & CO., NEW YORK
Scudder, Samuel H. Guide to Butterflies. \$1.25.
Scudder, Samuel H. The Life of a Butterfly. \$1.
- MACMILLAN & CO., NEW YORK
Brontë, Charlotte. Shirley. 2 Vols. \$2.
Lee, Sidney. Dictionary of National Biography. \$3.75.
Saunders, Bailey. The Maxims and Reflections of Goethe.
Scott, Sir Walter, Bart. Ivanhoe. \$1.25.
Crawford, F. Marion. Pietro Ghisleri. \$1.
- G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, NEW YORK
Newhall, Charles S. The Shrubs of Northeastern America. \$2.50.
Irving, Washington. The Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus. \$1.75.
Sunderland, Jabez T. The Bible: Its Origin, Growth, and Character. \$1.50.
Post, Waldron K. Harvard Stories. \$1.25.
Gallaudet, S. D. Charley: A Village Story. 75 cts.
- CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, NEW YORK
Stories of the South. 50 cts.
Cheyne, T. K. Founders of Old Testament Criticism. (Imported.) \$2.
Crittwell, Charles T. A Literary History of Early Christianity. (Imported.) 2 Vols. \$6.
Woman's Mission. (Papers on the Philanthropic Work of Women.) Edited by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. (Imported.) \$3.50.