

RECENT BOOKS.

Amateur Circus Life by Ernest Balch, price \$1.50, published by The MacMillans in Canada, St. Martins House, Toronto. This book is decidedly one for boys. Around the "circus" idea the author builds a very interesting and practical system of physical training, a system which will greatly benefit the growing boy, which will appeal to his love of "shows," and at the same time call for no expensive outlay for equipment. In addition to his strictly "circus" chapters, Mr. Black has one or two articles for the teacher or parents which make clear how, underlying all the subjects, there are fundamental precepts and rules drawn from his years of experience with boys which would be of great value in building up strong bodies. The work is profusely illustrated with half-tones and lined drawings prepared from photographs of boy amateurs taught in class by the method of physical training advocated in its pages. We consider that *Amateur Circus Life* fills a long standing want with regard to the physical training of boys and girls, and heartily recommend it to all those who have the physical care of the younger generation at heart.

Story-telling, Questioning and Studying by Herman Harrell Horne, price \$1.50, published by The MacMillans in Canada, St. Martins House, Toronto. Within the past few years the literary market has been almost flooded with text books as to story-telling, etc. Some of them have been well worth investing in, while others were hardly of any value. *Story-telling, Questioning and Studying* is certainly in the former class. Taking these three main school arts and dealing with them in a most practical way it certainly forms a book which all teachers may well have at hand. The work has all ages in mind, and to quote from the preface, consequently those who read for practical guidance only will find a few pages here and there which they will prefer to omit. Those who read all for the sake of the subject themselves whether they be apprentices, journeymen or masters, will probably find nothing untelligible though it be unusable. The contents of these studies, such as the definition of a story, the form of a story, the purpose of story-telling, how to tell a good story, the place of a story in education, under the heading of "The Art of Story-telling," and the importance of questioning, the kinds of questions, the answer, reference to the art of questioning, catalogued under the heading of "The Art of Questioning," and the "Art of Studying" comprising such interesting subjects as the definition of studying, how to study, training pupils to study, and the five rules of study, have been given in literature form from time to time in the extra mural course for teachers of the New York University in Brooklyn, Newark and Paterson.

Heaton's Annual, price \$1.25, published by the Heaton Agency, 32 Church Street, Toronto. As this periodical is a recognized commercial hand-book of Canada and Boards of Trade register now running into the thirteenth year, comment is hardly necessary from us, but we would certainly recommend that teachers have a copy handy for reference as it might save them hours of searching in other directions when important questions with respect to financial, commercial regulations, customs information, etc., are required.

Carpentry, by Ira S. Griffith, The Manual Arts Press Peoria, Illinois, price \$1.00 post paid, is a treatise of the "every-day" problems of the carpenter and house builder. Unlike other books on the subject, it does not deal with miniature models or a few selected details, but treats of the practical problems of the carpenter from the "laying of foundations" to the completion of the "interior finish."

As a text-book on carpentry, it meets every student requirement. The language is simple, the selection, arrangement and presentation all that could be desired, and in perfect harmony with the best educational methods. Although many books have been published on various phases of house building, no single volume has attempted to cover the essentials of the subject in a manner adapted for school use. It is equally well adapted for reference use by students. Journeymen carpenters will also find it a valuable handbook.

The line drawings show a high standard of technique and the photographs, made by an expert, were taken "on the job" especially for this book. It is well printed on good paper, and is strongly and attractively bound uniform with "Essentials of Woodworking."

Harper & Brothers announce that they will put to press immediately for reprinting, Jane Grey's novel, *Wildfire*, which was published only last week. They will reprint also *The Mysterious Stranger*, by Mark Twain.

Col. William F. Cody, who died last week, tells in his book, *The Adventures of Buffalo Bill*, published by the Harpers, the story of his first fight with Indians. It was in 1857, when he was only eleven years old, that he killed an Indian. He was accompanying some cattle-herders when they were attacked on the South Platte River. The Indians stampeded the cattle, killed three men and then charged on the rest. A volley stopped them for the moment and the herders took refuge in the river, wading behind the bank on their way to Fort Kearney. Buffalo Bill fell behind and when he suddenly looked up at the bank above he saw an Indian's head. He aimed and fired and the next moment was terrified to see "about six feet of dead Indian come tumbling into the river." From that time forward, he said, "I became a hero and an Indian-killer."

The February *Century* is the Mid-winter Fiction Number, and in addition to an instalment of Gertrude Hall's serial, "Aurora the Magnificent," the fiction includes five short stories. Most of them are by new writers; for example, Thomas Beer, whose story of fraternal feeling, "The Brothers," opens the number; Gertrude Nafe, who contributes "One Hundred Dollars," a story of the fight against poverty; Roger Wray, author of "An Episode." Sarah N. Cleghorn is represented by a dramatic little narrative, "Mr. Charles Raleigh Rawdon, Ma'am," and Fannie Kemble Johnson contributes another adventure from the life of Roddy Ivor.

The number also contains two notable artistic features: an article on wood-engraving by the greatest living exponent of the art. Timothy Cole, illustrated by no less than seven of his finest engravings; and a series of five vigorous and characteristic lithographs of the munitions works of England, by Joseph Pennell.