

the book is taken up with chapters on Construction, introducing the Gothic revival, Cottage architecture, suburban homes, the economy of country life, —showing how poverty is a blessing sometimes—sites, plans, building materials, those occasionally delusive specifications, plumbers' blunders, which will strike home in many hearts, the lightning-rod-man and his attacks, steam-heating, the library, kitchen, &c., &c. The second part goes thoroughly into furniture and decoration. Everything about a house is discussed critically and effectively, and some delightful observations on plants and conservatories and woodwork and fire places, will interest persons of æsthetic tastes and feelings. Mr. Holly writes well, and his book is interlarded with amusing anecdotes, some clever sayings, and now and then a picturesque bit of description. The illustrations are well engraved, and add much to the appearance of a volume whose letterpress is so enjoyable to read, and useful in every way.

Dr. Draper is one of the most voluminous and scholarly authors of America. Of fine scientific attainments and possessing a philosophical mind, and an aptitude for research, he has already made many notable contributions to the stronger literature of the day. He writes in a free and pictorial style, and his books are distinguished for their originality and breadth of view. The learned author's latest volume is a fine series of papers on a great variety of subjects, exhibiting much experimental investigation. 'Scientific Memoirs'* is a noble work. It owes its origin to its author's zeal and study for the last forty years, and includes the majority of Dr. Draper's noteworthy memoirs, which relate to Radiant Energy or the effects of Radiations. These are treated in an excellent

spirit. A full investigation is made of the temperature at which bodies become red-hot, the nature of the light which they emit at various degrees and the connection between their status as to vibration and their heat. Dr. Draper has studied this notable branch of science for many years, and he has been the first to introduce into America the use of instruments, which to-day find general acceptance with scholars and experimenters. The spectroscope at an early period claimed his attention, and he employed it in the prosecution of his labours, when few even in Europe, save the renowned Fraunhofer, gave it the attention it demanded. And so it has been with other aids to advanced science, Dr. Draper has led rather than followed others. He has developed facts for himself. He has investigated the secrets of chemistry and the wonders of modern science in all its forms. His utterances may be accepted as authoritative for the statements he advances, and students and others will find the history of many delightful experiments in the book under present consideration. Dr. Draper thus speaks of the plan and scope of his work—the occupation of many years. 'Experimental investigation, to borrow a phrase employed by Kepler, respecting the testing of hypotheses, is a very great thief of time! Sometimes it costs many days to determine a fact that can be stated in a line. The things related in these memoirs have consumed much more than forty years. Such a publication therefore, assumes the character of an autobiography, since it is essentially a daily narrative of the occupation of its author. To a reader imbued with the true spirit of philosophy, even the short-comings, easily detectable in it, are not without a charm. From the better horizon he has gained, he watches his author, who, like a pioneer, is doubtfully finding his way, here travelling in a track that leads to

**Scientific Memoirs*: Being Experimental Contributions to A Knowledge of Radiant Energy. By JOHN WILLIAM DRAPER, M. D., L. L. D. New York: Harper & Bros. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson