

cause the hall was unmercifully chilly, and her hands were cold, still her performance was dignified, at the same time replete with musical sentiment and general breadth of style. The lovely Chopin nocturne was exquisitely sung on the piano, and several of the smaller numbers, such as Bird's "Humoresque," Bulow's "Intermezzo," and Moskowski's "Caprice Espagnol" were played with surprising ease, and brilliancy of execution, displaying not only a large technique, but also a commendable sense of feeling, expression and intelligence. Her touch is elastic, yet vigorous, her staccato being splendidly developed, but the beautiful refined polish which we are accustomed to hear was lacking, doubtless owing to continued travelling, and the impossibility of obtaining daily practice. Mme. d'Auria was in remarkably good voice and sang with captivating artlessness, and rare brilliancy Rossini's Aria "Bel Raggio" and Ardit's "Daisy Polka," which were received with subdued expressions of delight. Mme. d'Auria is a gifted songstress, and has a soprano voice of capital quality, which is highly cultivated and under complete control. Sig. Giuseppe Dinelli played her accompaniments with excellent judgment, and in a manner which showed the sensitive musician, to which the Knabe grand lent its most efficient aid.

Mr. Boscovitz was greeted with an audience which comfortably filled the pretty Normal School Theatre, and had the assistance of the following excellent vocalists: Miss Minnie Gaylord, soprano, Miss Lilli Kleiser, Mezzo soprano; and Mr. A. L. E. Davies, baritone. The pianist's programme comprised several Chopin numbers, and several novelties, although the programme was not strictly adhered to, probably because of the performer's recent indisposition. It is difficult to say in which number Mr. Boscovitz achieved his greatest success, for although he has a beautiful touch, a capable and well-developed technique, and a good tone, yet to a musician his performances are unsatisfactory. All his numbers were played in the same manner, with little repose, or natural sympathy, which is always a sterling quality of the sensitive artist. On the contrary Mr. Boscovitz is spasmodic in the use of rubato, he indulges in the most sensational and violent contrasts in regard to tone color—that is, he either plays fortissimo, or pianissimo, and makes no grades of tone between these two extremes, although the Steinway Grand palpitates with the most lovely tints of forte, mezzo-forte, piano, and mezzo-piano; still Mr. Boscovitz heeds it not, preferring—not wisely—to use only its softest whispers, and loudest thunderings. This style of playing is not adapted to Chopin's music, or indeed, any music, unless it be the wild music of the frenzied Hungarian, or the hot blooded and fiery Gypsy. He played his own clever minuet, with splendid finish of detail, and it is a composition which ought to be better known, but his last number, Liszt's arrangement of Wagner's "Sinning Song" was less satisfactory and technically faulty. Miss Gaylord is improving daily, and is a young lady of great promise, for she has natural talent of a high order. She sang most charmingly, "At the Ball" by Mr. Boscovitz, and Schira's "Sognai", besides an encore number. Miss Kleiser is likewise the possessor of a voice of excellent quality, and sang with refined taste Mr. Boscovitz's new song, "White Shells" and Tosti's "Could I?" and responded by singing in delightful style Goring Thomas' beautiful romantic song, "A Summer Night", Mr. Davies was also obliged to sing an extra song to satisfy his admirers, in response to his singing Mr. Boscovitz's "A Sailor's Love", also new. His voice is of good compass and quality, and he uses it with excellent taste and judgment. With further study there is no reason to prevent his becoming a valued singer. Mr. Boscovitz's songs contain all the elements of popularity, being taking, not too difficult, and flatteringly sentimental, although reminiscent of every other song of like character. He writes well and gracefully, and as-

simulates with remarkable ease the works of other popular composers, and it is to be regretted he intends taking his departure from Toronto, as we understand he leaves shortly for Chicago.

LIBRARY TABLE.

FOR CANADA AND THE OLD FLAG. By Rev. E. H. Burgess. Price 35 cents. Halifax, N.S.: Knight & Co. 1893.

Quite recently we gave a favourable notice of a volume of sermons by Mr. Burgess; and the one before us on 2 Samuel X. 12 is excellent. The sermon, however, occupies not quite one half of the pamphlet which begins with a combative preface, and has moreover, a highly commendatory letter from Sir Charles Tupper. All lovers of a United Empire will prize this brochure.

THE WORLD OF THE UNSEEN. By Arthur Willink. Price \$1.00. New York: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: The Williamson Book Co. 1893.

There may be a world in which this book would be intelligible; but it can hardly be the world which we know. The explanation of the world of the unseen, of the departed, and of the ministry of angels, is a fourth dimension of space. We know of only three, a fourth is to us inconceivable. If anyone thinks otherwise he may have recourse to this well written book. Its second title is "An Essay on the Relation of Higher Space to Things Eternal."

ORIOLE'S DAUGHTER. By Jessie Fothergill. Price 50 cents. New York: Tait, Sons, & Co. 1893.

Those who have read the "First Violin" and "Probation" will need no introduction to the author of this volume. If we cannot accord it a place quite so high as either of those, we have no hesitation in giving it a hearty welcome as quite above the average. The heroine is the daughter of a selfish and impecunious Italian widow. She has been brought into the world in a manner not quite regular; but she is beautiful and good. Her mother sells her to a wealthy and vulgar Australian. All kinds of misery come of this. The details of the plot are skillfully worked out.

A MERE CYPHER: a novel by Mary Angela Dickens. Price \$1.00. New York: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: The Williamson Book Co.

This is a distinctly good story. It was originally published in serial form in a magazine under the title of "A Modern Judith"; is here reproduced among Macmillan's Dollar Novels under the title originally given. The heroine is a very insignificant person, married to a self-indulgent, unprincipled physician. She becomes much attached to a patient of her husband's a very interesting character, the real hero of the book. A very sweet girl becomes the heroine; and the scoundrel of a doctor proceeds to blackmail the hero and to wreck his prospects in love and life. How this was prevented by the "mere Cypher" (we prefer this spelling), the other title a "Modern Judith" may suggest. Miss Dickens has written a very interesting novel.

SCHURER'S JEWISH HISTORY. A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ. By Emil Schurer. D. D., Professor of Giessen. Five volumes and index. Edinburgh, T. T. Clark; Toronto: Presbyterian News Coy. (Various dates.)

We give a cordial welcome to the completion of Schurer's great work on the History of the Jews in the time of Christ. Of the importance of the subject there can be no question; and we think the great qualities of Schurer's treatment of it will be universally recognized. With regard to the author's qualifications for the task, few will be in doubt. As editor of the Theologische Literaturzeitung he has now

for a good many years given evidence of an acquaintance with all branches of Christian theology which is both extensive and profound; and he has in various ways dealt with the special subject of the present work. Indeed these volumes are themselves, a reconstruction, as he calls it, of the "Manual of the History of New Testament Times" which the author published a good many years ago; and the difference between the two works gives ample evidence of the amount of time and labour bestowed upon the undertaking.

The new title, the author thinks, will express more clearly the contents of the book, which does not profess to be more than a history of the Jewish people in the time of Christ, leaving out of account all the heathen world, which could not be admitted without making arbitrary selections. The author has preserved the old framework, the sections of his new book running nearly parallel with the old. There are only two additional paragraphs, the principle one being devoted to the Priesthood and the Temple worship. The actual contents of the book, the treatment of the various heads, is almost entirely new. The bulk of the work is about three times as great, and this has arisen partly from extended study and chiefly from the extended literature of the subject which has to be considered and noticed.

Purchasers of the book are aware that the second division (vols. 3 to 5) was first published, since the great changes had to be made in this part of the book. The first part has also expanded, although not quite to the same extent and is now published so as to complete the work. The plan of the work is excellent. First we should mention the very complete literary apparatus which is prefixed to each division and section. The periods treated are two: 1. From Antiochus Epiphanes down to the conquest of Jerusalem by Pompey (B. C. 175-63); 2. From the Conquest of Jerusalem, by Pompey to the Hadrian War (B. C. 63-A. D. 135). These occupy the first division (vols. 1 & 2) and are supplemented by a series of valuable appendices on points requiring separate treatment, for example, the genealogy of the Asmoneans and the House of Herod.

The second division (vols. 3 to 5) deals more immediately with the institutions of Judaism, the state of culture with reference to the mixture of the population and Hellenic influences; the Sanhedrim; the Priesthood and the Temple; the Scribes; Pharisees and Sadducees; School and Synagogue; the Messianic Hope; finishing with a very fine delineation of later Jewish literature, Palestinian and Hellenistic, which occupies the whole of the last volume.

The spirit of the author is at once liberal and conservative. As regards the mere technical aspect of his work, it is clear that old views must be greatly modified. As regards the substantive result, no great difference will be felt. Take, for example, the brief but excellent section on the suffering Messiah which closes the discussion of the Messianic Hope, and we shall find little which has not been accepted by all reasonable students of Hebrew thought in the time of Christ. It is clear that the Jews did not then expect the Messiah to be a suffering one.

If the reader would like to have a specimen of the thorough and almost exhaustive manner in which Dr. Schurer deals with the various topics here handled, let him select any special subject and go carefully through the discussion of it. Take, for example, the section on the Supreme Sanhedrim in Jerusalem. First we have the Literature, ranging from the older authorities like Seldon, down to Keine, Wellhausen, Reuss, and Staffer. Nothing of importance seems to be wanting. Then we have the following points carefully treated; 1, Its history—given with every needful detail; 2, Its composition, authorities carefully adduced and references given to modern works; 3, Its jurisdiction, with remarks of great interest as bearing upon the trial of Jesus; 4, The time and place of meeting; 5, Judicial procedure. This is a specimen; but every part of the book is characterized by learning, fairness, and thoroughness.