

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

MOFFATT'S EXPLANATORY READERS, Standard V. MENTAL ARITHMETIC FOR THE STANDARDS: Part I., for Standards I., II. and III.; Part II., for Standards IV., V., and VI. MOFFATT'S SCHOLARSHIP ANSWERS, Midsummer, 1880. THE PUPIL TEACHERS' THIRD YEAR COURSE. Moffatt & Paige, 28 Warwick Lane, Paternoster Row, E. C., London.

THE above list of publications received from Messrs. Moffatt and Paige shew that these enterprising publishers notwithstanding the late destruction of their premises by fire are determined to push to the front as caterers to the intellectual wants of public schools.

The Reader is the last but one of a series, and is made up of varied selections on numerous topics, some important, some trifling, and some of no value at all. The epithet "Explanatory" is justified by the fact that each lesson is preceded by a list of the most difficult words in it, arranged for spelling and pronunciation, and followed by short notes elucidatory of both the matter and the difficult words of the lesson. These are intended to assist both teacher and scholar; and that they may have their full value each note has its appropriate reference number in the body of the lesson.

The printing is so good that the numbers do not mar the page, and are not likely to distract the attention of the reader. The paper is also good, and the binding substantial, and free from that stiffness so objectionable in a school-book. There are a few illustrations, but most of these are badly executed and could very well be done without.

The chief fault we have to find with the book is that it teaches reading and nothing more. There is no well-defined attempt to make the reading lesson a vehicle to convey useful knowledge. It would have greatly enhanced the value of the book, for instance,

if a series of lessons had been given in it similar to the lesson at page 137, on "The Four Sub-kingdoms of Nature." It would add to the usefulness of the book even as it stands to have a few pertinent questions at the foot of each page bearing upon its contents.

We sigh for the time when text-books on Mental Arithmetic, similar to these two-penny or three-penny books shall be found in our Canadian schools. They contain between them several thousand examples of questions ranging from "Tom had 2 nuts but ate 1; how many has he left?" to "Find the simple interest on £212 12s. 1d. at 4 per cent."

The questions very properly aim at producing the habit of quick and accurate reckoning without the aid of pen or pencil rather than at the solution of arithmetical conundrums.

Of course they are particularly suited to English schools, their exercises being largely composed of questions on sterling money.

The Scholarship Answers are those to questions given to candidates for admission to the Teachers' Training Colleges, the entrants being called Queen's Scholars.

They cover wide ground, taking in School Management, Arithmetic, Grammar, Music, Geography, History, Domestic Economy, Euclid, Algebra, Mensuration, German, French, Latin and Greek. The answers to the questions on School Management will be found of most value to Canadian readers, and are quite worth the price of the book. They deal with such subjects as the teaching of subtraction by the method of equal addition, and decomposition; suitable subjects for home lessons; means of sustaining the attention of a class during a thirty minutes' oral lesson on geography; the best form of children's work bags, and teachers' work-