

RECENT BOOKS.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL GEOGRAPHY. By A. T. Simmons, B. Sc., and Hugh Richardson, M. A. Cloth. Pages 380. Price 3s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., London.

This is an attempt to teach geography scientifically by experiments and exercises. The plan has led to the exclusion of ordinary descriptive matter, and laboratory work as in all modern scientific instruction takes its place. This forms a habit of mind, leading the pupil to take a keen interest in his surroundings. Maps, the Globe, Climate, on Land and Sea, are the four sections in which the work is divided.

THE LANGUAGE-SPELLER By Elizabeth H. Spalding and Frank R. Moore. Cloth. Pages 144. Price 50 cents. The Macmillan Company, New York; Morang & Company, Limited, Toronto.

This is a very successful attempt to correlate language work with spelling, which by the presentation of stems, prefixes and suffixes, fixes the meaning of the word spelled on the pupil's memory. Groups of synonyms occur in nearly every lesson. There is a regular course in composition, from easy stages, such as letters of application and business, to themes more ambitious. The book presents an excellent method of teaching language and its related subjects.

THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA AND THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA AND THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY. Edited by W. H. D. Rouse, D. Litt. Cloth. 128 pages each. Price 5d. each. Blackie & Son, London.

The History of Virginia is a part of the adventures of the famous Capt. John Smith, whose travels by sea and land cover a period of thirty-six years. He advocated the planting of colonies in America, and it was chiefly through this instrumentality that the Pilgrim Fathers established themselves in New England, where Smith spent two or three years of his life. The Black Hole of Calcutta is a story of absorbing interest, marking one of the most important epochs of British rule in India.

MACMILLAN'S NEW GEOGRAPHY READERS. Book IV. Illustrated. Cloth. Pages 216. Price 1s. 4d. Macmillan & Company, London.

An admirable selection of good readings embracing history, fables, adventure, poetry and stories, all written by well-known authors. No better books can be found for school libraries.

BLACKIE'S MODEL READERS, Book III. Cloth. Pages 209. Price 1s. Blackie & Son, London.

A fine array of good readings suitable for little people, with beautiful illustrations. The picture stories at the end are excellent for reproduction, and the songs in the book are suitable for schools.

BRUYERE'S LES CARACTERES, Adapted and Edited by Eugene Pellissier. Cloth. Pages 180. Price 2s. 6d. Macmillan & Company, London.

This book is the first of a series dealing with the classical French authors of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It contains many excellent features, in addition

to a critical introduction and notes, such as subjects for Free Compositions, with a moderate amount of guidance, summary of grammatical peculiarities, etc. The book is a fine model for classical instructors and readers.

WAR INCONSISTENT WITH THE RELIGION of Jesus Christ. By David Low Dodge. Cloth. Pages 192. Price 30 cents. Ginn & Co., Boston.

This book, written by a man whose life has been earnestly devoted to the cause of peace, has the sincerity of conviction about it. Under the three divisions: War is Inhuman, War is Unwise, and War is Criminal, he presents the views of thoughtful men everywhere upon this subjects, and answers possible objections, from his point of view, with equal sincerity and conviction.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES. By Charles Dickens. With Introduction and Notes by A. A. Barter. School Edition. Cloth. Pages 368. Price 2s. 6d. Adam and Charles Black, London.

The introduction to this book forms a good piece of literary criticism. It gives a short sketch of the history of the novel, an appreciative summary of the life and writings of Dickens, the style, treatment and character in the book, with a note on the historical period. Of the story itself Richard Grant White has said: "Its portrayal of a noble natured castaway makes it almost a peerless book in modern literature, and gives it a place amongst the highest examples of literary art."

Blackie's Gems of School Songs, (Blackie & Son London), contain a selection of the popular melodies of England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, arranged on the tonic-sol-fa notation. Price 2d.

Blackie's Model Arithmetics contain a multitude of examples arranged for the first three grades. Price 2d. Blackie & Son, London.

The "Council" Arithmetics for schools. Parts 7 and 8, by T. B. Ellery, F. R. G. S. contain a series of practical examples for higher grades, adapted for English schools. Adam and Charles Black, Soho Square, London, W.

Mérimée's *Le Siège de la Rochelle* and Edmond About's *Les Jumeaux de L'Hotel Corneille*, price 4d. each, are two stories in Blackie's Little French classes. The first is taken from a Chronicle of Charles IX. a record of events which preceded and followed the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, and the extract tells of the historic defence of the colonists under the intrepid La Noue against the Catholics under the Duke of Anjou, afterwards Henry III. Edmond About's stories appeal to the young student because they are interesting, easily understood, and have a strong English touch to them. *Le Verre d'Eau*, by Eugene Scribe is a double number of the same series (price 8d.). It is a story of court intrigue in the reign of Queen Anne. The incident which gives the play its name rests on the tradition of "the glass of water" alleged to have been spilled by the Duchess of Marlborough over Queen Anne. Although many of the historical and political details lack accuracy, it is interesting throughout and abounds with sprightly incidents.

Two Plays for Girls—The Masque or Pageant of English Trees and Flowers, in which pretty conceit