

uniform in shape and appearance. The letter-press embraces clever stories, piquant essays, and a good variety of desultory reading matter. The last volume is a neatly told tale by Charlotte M. Yonge, entitled 'The Disturbing Element.'* There is plenty of love ('the disturbing element'), adventure and romance in the story, and the author's method may be highly commended. The materials are slender, but there is plenty of 'go' and action and bright colouring, which make up for the almost total absence of plot. The idea of the story is a good one, and there is much originality in its development. A number of young English girls, studying for the Cambridge and Edinburgh examinations, form themselves into a society for mutual improvement and the cultivation of the mental faculties. They hold many meetings, and these are quite amusingly described, while a complete list of the studies prosecuted and the method practised are also given. A German professor is introduced, and he and his crippled brother soon become important persons in the little drama. Of course the veteran novel reader will be prepared for what follows. One of the young ladies falls in love with the teacher, and several of the other pupils in turn form attachments, and the society and story come to an end almost at the same time. There are some spirited bits of writing here and there in the book,

* *The Disturbing Element*; or, Chronicles of the Blue Bell Society, by CHARLOTTE M. YONGE. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

and a good dramatic incident is well conceived and cleverly worked up.

'Modern Fishers of Men'* is an entertaining story. It is light, amusing and bright, and while it is not particularly new or fresh, it will serve to while away a dull hour pleasantly enough. There is the usual amount of love-making and the usual number of match-making mammas, a clever parson, a bold young military officer, and, of course, quite a formidable array of attractive young ladies. The scene is laid in a village, and what with sewing circles, festivals, tea-meetings and temperance gatherings, the author contrives to tell a humorous and tolerably well constructed tale. The vein of satire, which runs through the story, is quite enjoyable. The frailties of poor humanity are laid bare by a remorseless pen, and it is easy to understand why *some*, at least, of the incidents are described.

Horticulturalists and lovers of the Flower-garden will find much that is interesting and instructive in Mr. James Vick's handsomely printed 'Floral Guide.'† It is more than a mere catalogue of names of plants and seedlings. It is a book of beautifully executed engravings. It is a history of flowers of every kind. The coloured plate is a real gem.

* *Modern Fishers of Men*. Among the various sexes, sects, and sets of Chartville Church and community. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

† *The Floral Guide*. James Vick, Rochester, New York.