

By way of specific suggestion, attention may now be called to certain lines of English literary reading and to individual books and authors.

First of all, there are some books about books which may be profitably consulted. Such are the late ex-President Porter's "Books and Reading ;" Professor Phelps's "Men and Books," in which the relations of literature and life are clearly set forth ; Baldwin's "Book-Lover ;" Lang's "Books and Bookmen ;" Shepherd's "Authors and Authorship," wherein we find the struggles and successes of authors vividly delineated, in connection with a large amount of interesting literary information, and Harrison's "Choice of Books," in which he treats of authors, ancient and modern, and of the right use and the abuse of books. Emerson, in his essay on "Books," and Lowell, in his "Library of Old Authors," and especially in his fascinating paper on "Books and Libraries," have placed every American student under indebtedness for wise and helpful suggestion as to what to read and how to read it.

In the special department of English fiction, quite apart from any separate novels that might be mentioned, the intelligent reader should make himself conversant with the general history of our fiction and with its particular method, purpose, and character. There are a half-dozen authorities that might be cited, each of whom is desirable with reference to such an end, while the perusal of all of them would well repay any one who desired full and accurate information along this special line of literary effort.

Such are Dunlop's "History of Fiction ;" Jusserand's "English Novel in the Time of Shakespeare ;" Lanier's "English Novel ;" Tuckerman's "British Fiction," and Masson's "British Novelists and their Styles."

Such a book as Woolson's "George Eliot and her Heroines" is full of instruction as to the individual novelist with whom it deals. As to particular works of fiction, it would be invidious and, indeed, difficult to make selection, so large and varied is the list. Suffice it to say that here, most of all, should the guiding principle be applied—the best works of the best authors. Every man who claims to be well read should be familiar with standard English fiction, with Dickens and Thackeray, Bulwer and Scott, Cooper and Hawthorne, and the later school of sound and healthful realism.

One of the most attractive fields of literary reading for the average American pastor is that of English critical and descriptive miscellany, in that so much of it can be read in those brief snatches of time that lie in the life of every busy man, and in that it is so contributive to the formation of a clear and clean and facile English style. The list of authors that might be cited here is so extended and excellent as almost to defy discrimination. A few may be adduced, as follows :

Matthew Arnold's "Essays in Criticism ;" Bagehot's "Literary Studies ;" Birrell's "Obiter Dicta ;" Carlyle's "Past and Present ;" Cooke's "Poets and Problems ;" De Quincey's Essays ; Dobson's "Eigh-