

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

THE November *Atlantic* opens with a timely article on "Character of Democracy in the United States," by Professor Woodrow Wilson. Professor Wilson fears that something like national paralysis will overtake his country for the need of central and responsible leadership. Another political paper is on "The French in Canada." There are two essays on art subjects, and among the stories is a short tale by Octave Thanet, entitled "The First Mayor," the plot of which is laid in a western town. It is full of incident and interest. The other pages of this scholarly magazine are filled by equally good literature, and by the usual departments.

THE question, "Are the French capable of self-government?" is discussed and partly answered in an article in the last issue of the *Overland*. The writer thinks recent events show progress in that direction. "Poverty and Charity in San Francisco," is another article that many people will read and feel themselves well repaid for doing so. Fiction is represented by four short stories and five chapters of the serial, "A Tale of the Incredible." The *Overland* is now in its 22nd year. It has during that time filled a very important place in western literature.

The Quiver continues to present to the reading public literature suited for Sunday and home reading. It is an excellent household magazine. Amongst the contributors to the November number are Evelyn Everett Green, Sarah Doudney, Rev. Dr. Macduff and others. Two short papers on "Winning Unawares," and "Having a Hobby," and a third on "Gentleness in Christian Work," are perhaps the best reading in the number.

The Academy devotes a large part of its November issue to the Official Report of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the N. E. Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools. The question, "Should Homer be taught in the preparatory school?" was discussed fully by Prof. Seymour and Dr. Keep, in papers read at that meeting and printed here. The former is opposed to, and the latter

rather in favour of, such teaching. Two other articles make up the number. *The Academy* is one of the best magazines for teachers published on this Continent.

OUR esteemed weekly visitor, the *Critic*, is more and more thought of by those engaged in literary work. Its longer reviews are always worth reading through, while the briefer ones, whether favourable or the reverse, contain verdicts of no little value as a guide to those who read and buy books. The latest issue has an interesting page on Books for the Young; another on Holiday Publications; a column devoted to Julian Corbett's "Life of Monk"; a Boston Letter, and other letters; and the usual fresh "Notes."

The New Calisthenics. By Dr. M. L. Pratt. (Boston: The Educational Publishing Co.) \$1.25 — A handsome manual of calisthenics, giving instructions for position and gestures, steps in marching, dumb-bell exercises, wand drills, motion songs, etc., and fully illustrated, is a book of which many teachers will be glad to hear. Every step is plain, and the course of instruction is so full that it will be found very satisfactory, especially for primary and intermediate work.

Louisa May Alcott. Her Life, Letters, and Journals. Edited by Ednah D. Cheney, (Boston: Roberts Brothers.) — A feeling of pleasure came over everyone who had read Miss Alcott's books on seeing the announcement of the present volume. There is no book recently issued more suitable for a prize book, particularly for girls—a great many copies will be Christmas presents. Page after page of the Letters and Journals, in many cases annotated by the authoress in later years, will claim the attention of the reader. We can only say that the story of Miss Alcott's own life is as interesting as her own beautiful true stories of life. The volume is uniform with the series of her works issued by her publishers, Messrs. Roberts Bros. We hope many of our readers will be fortunate enough to have it for their own.