

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

GERMAN SIMPLIFIED. Especially intended for self-instruction. By Augustin Knoflach. New York: A. Knoflach. Toronto: David Boyle.

This is a concise grammar of German, divided up into a series of twelve small pamphlets varying from fifteen to twenty pages. It may be used in schools and colleges, but is especially designed for self-instruction. Hence the author has introduced numerous exercises and careful explanations of difficulties, together with questions upon grammatical points. Directions for study are also added at the end of each lesson; and each number is accompanied by a key to the previous one. The system is well calculated to assist and encourage those who are endeavouring to acquire some facility in the language without the aid of a master.

EXERCISES IN FRENCH SYNTAX, WITH RULES. By G. Shays, M.A., Assistant Master at Marlborough College. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Rivingtons, Waterloo Place, London, 1886. pp. 138.

The above is an elementary treatise on French Syntax, with copious exercises; the rules are given clearly, and too much is not attempted. Perhaps a little more attention might have been given to the partitive relative, and it would certainly be desirable to cease using the phrase, "partitive article," there being, as it has been pointed out, no such thing. In his preface the author says: "I have assumed, on the part of the learner, a fair knowledge of French accidence, and some acquaintance with the commoner grammatical terms of syntax, and I have aimed at reaching the point at which the translation of ordinary straightforward pieces of English ought to be manageable."

At the end of the volume is a selection of short easy pieces of continuous prose to be turned into French.

SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE AND HYGIENE. By J. George Hodgins, M.A., LL.D., Deputy-Minister. pp. 135.

THE MONTHLY has pleasure in speaking favourably of this hand-book, which cannot fail to be of assistance to school trustees and others. In the course of some twenty chapters, nearly all the information required on the subject of school architecture is clearly given, also plans, designs and illustrations.

THE MCGILL COLLEGE SONG BOOK. Compiled by a committee of graduates and undergraduates. Montreal: J. L. Lamplough. pp. 159.

A capital book, containing many good songs—English and French. The compilation committee and the publisher are to be congratulated on producing a book already so popular and of such neat and tasteful appearance.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. By the Rev. W. Hudson, LL.D. Ginn & Co., Boston.

This edition of Shakespeare's works deserves to be, and is likely to become, the most popular one in America as a school text-book. Dr. Hudson has spared neither pains nor labour in his critical and historical introductions to the plays, in the notes upon the text that accompany them at the foot of the page, and in the critical notes that follow, to make Shakespeare thoroughly intelligible to the modern reader, and at the same time to put into the hands of students a thoroughly reliable and comprehensive text-book. The learned editor has confined his attention mainly to interpreting his author rather than to criticising the character of his work, and so far his efforts are instructive rather than educative. Where so much has been done well it may seem invidious to find fault, but we confess that the lack of genuine literary criticism, except what may be quoted from Coleridge and others, renders Dr.