

RECENT BOOKS.

Vocational Mathematics, from the pen of Mr. Wm. H. Dooley, Principal of the Technical High School, Fall River, Mass. is a practical work dealing with those branches of mathematics especially required by students who are seeking to fit themselves to meet the requirements of trade and industry. It supplements the usual school course, and takes up the required work in a very plain and concise manner. The purpose of the work is to put the subject matter in an easily understood and readily accessible form. The discussion of theory has been largely avoided, only sufficient theory being included to make an understanding of the subject possible. Many teachers of mathematics would find this book of value as a reference text, as it deals with subjects of practical value in such a manner as to make it helpful in teaching arithmetic and algebra, so that they may be more readily applied to the problems of those engaged in the skilled trades. The work on formulae is especially commendable. [D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, New York, Chicago.]

Exercises in Word Formation and Derivation, by Frank Ritchie, M. A., is a capital little book of its kind, furnishing what teachers so often want, abundant material for written work in spelling and elementary composition. There are lists of words whose derivation or connections are to be shown, practice exercises in prefixes and affixes, and some interesting work provided in explaining common phrases, such as "to come to the hammer," "all his geese are swans," "Brother Jonathan," "to run amuck," [George Allen & Co, Ltd. 55 pages. 9d].

Vocational education is beginning to be widely talked of in Canada, but it is not easy to find the facts about it collected in convenient space. Dr. Joseph S. Taylor, District Superintendent of Schools, New York, has written a *Handbook of Vocational Education* that is both interesting and practical. Speaking of the too common disparagement of our school systems by superficial critics, Dr. Taylor says: "We do not need a new curriculum for existing schools, although the curriculum needs revision from time to time to keep the school abreast of scientific discovery and responsive to economic and social changes. What we do need is a new system of schools to supplement the work of the present system and to serve as a connecting link between education and industry. There is no sense in berating our schools for not teaching vocations. They were never expected to do so. Separate schools are needed for special education, and as fast as possible these are being organized. The elementary school can do little more than teach the tools of knowledge. Some pre-vocational instruction may be offered by the regular school; but actual vocational training for young people already employed will be offered in separate day or evening schools."

The book has chapters on industrial education in Europe, Industrial vs. Manual training, the intermediate school, continuation schools, the training of vocational teachers, vocational guidance, apprenticeship and compulsory education, suggestions for discussion and investigation, a

bibliography, and an appendix containing miscellaneous information bearing on the main topic. [The MacMillan Co., of Canada. 225 pages. \$1.00].

The war is quickening in most people the sense of personal responsibility and the desire to be useful to others. A timely little book is *I Serve*, a handbook of personal service, written by George H. Green, with a preface by the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttleton. The object of the book is to lead boys and girls to take an interest in social conditions and problems, and to see their personal responsibility in connection with these. The conditions and problems are chiefly those of the United Kingdom, but we recommend the book to any teacher who wants to get for himself and to give his pupils an outlook into the social world and an awakening of the social conscience. It is an excellent handbook for young peoples' club, suggesting topics for profitable readings and debates. *e. g.* What does the state receive in exchange for its help of education? What reasons are there for limiting the liberty of a criminal? of a child? Severe punishment does not prevent crime. Only the helpless have rights, others have duties. What are the principal objections to loafing? [Adam & Charles Black, London. The MacMillan Co., of Canada, Toronto. 132 pages. 50 cents].

An attractive little collection of English poems is found in the *Greyfriar Book of English Verse*, arranged by Guy Kendall, M. A., for the use of lower forms in the famous school of Charterhouse. In the preface, the head master says: "It is always worth while to learn a good poem by heart. The original effort may be painful, and much of what is learnt may be soon forgotten; but some echoes of music or rhythm, some ideas suggested, always remain as a permanent possession." Besides the better known poems common to most of such collections, this one has extracts from William Morris and Walt Whitman. [Longman's, Green & Co. 170 pages. 60 cents net].

The latest issue of Black's *Travel Pictures* is a set of forty-eight pictures, half of which are in colour, of the British Empire. We have recommended this series before, and this issue is especially valuable as assistance in giving glimpses of the other parts of the Empire. 'A. & C. Black. 10d.

WITH THE MAGAZINES.

Something new and rather thought-compelling in current discussions of the war is a serious discussion of the question "Will Western Civilization Survive?" which is the leading article in *The Living Age* for May 1. It derives special interest from the fact that it is reprinted from the *Hindustan Review*, and is written by a Hindu, Mr. Pramatha Nath Bose.

"Big States and Small Nations" is the subject of a timely article which opens *The Living Age* for May 8. The article is reprinted from *The Fortnightly Review*, and the writer is J. A. R. Marriot.

J. O. P. Bland's keen article on "Self-Appointed Statesmen," which made so much stir when it appeared in *The*