

Book Notices.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. Quarto, pp. 2,118. Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam. Toronto: William Briggs, and Methodist Book Rooms, Montreal and Halifax. Price, full sheep, \$12.50; indexed, \$13.50.

We have used Webster's Unabridged for twenty-five years, and have always found it an exceedingly reliable and satisfactory dictionary. Successive revisions have kept it abreast of the advances in philological science, but this new book is in advance, we think, of every other. It is not a mere revision; it is a new book from cover to cover; printed from new plates, cast from new type, the whole reset, enlarged and improved, bringing it in every department up to date. It has not been a hurried revision; it has been in progress for over ten years, and has engaged the services of more than one hundred editorial labourers. Before the first copy was printed there was expended upon this new book a sum exceeding \$300,000.

The page is considerably larger than in the old Unabridged, and is very clearly printed. The black-faced type make the catch-words, moreover, very distinct. A feature of great importance is the enumeration of synonyms with their careful discrimination in connection with all important words. The derivation of words and their pronunciation are carefully indicated, and their proper use illustrated by citation from a very wide range of authors.

Pictorial illustration is more largely used than ever by means of small, clear engravings in the text and by classified list at the end of the volume, covering eighty-two pages. In the numerous departments of science the definitions and illustrations are especially helpful, so that the book really becomes almost a cyclopædia. The different combinations of the word "photo-," for instance, as pho-

tograph, etc., fill completely two columns, with seventy-five titles. The combinations of "phon-," such as phonograph, cover forty titles, and those of "phos-," as in phosphorus, thirty-two titles. These are but specimens of the very careful treatment of the recent applications of science. Eight coloured plates are prefixed, giving the official flags, seals, arms, etc., of the nations of the world; also a very full and succinct history of the English language, by Prof. James Hadley, LL.D., of Yale College; also guides to pronunciation, orthography, etc.

A series of valuable appendices are added, giving the names of noted persons and places in fiction and familiar pseudonyms, covering thirty-one pages; a pronouncing gazetteer, or geographical dictionary of the world, containing over 21,000 titles, filling ninety-five pages; a vocabulary of Greek and Latin proper names covering nineteen pages; quotations from classical and modern authors twelve pages; and a biographical dictionary containing 10,000 names. So complete is this latter that even the name of so humble an individual as the present writer is included.

The definitions in important departments: as architecture, botany, chemistry, geology, law, mechanics, medicine, music, physiology, etc., have been revised by experts in these different departments.

The whole book is a magnificent specimen of book-making and book-binding—strong, firm and flexible, with a patent leather index in the margin. The price of this book in best style is \$12.50, with leather index, \$13.50.

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