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The dancers dance as though some demon possessed their legs, until the perspiration is pouring down their faces. They are relieved by others, who, exhausted in their turn, are relieved, and so on until the fiddler, exhausted, steaming and streaming, passes the winning post with an unearthly flourish and sinks panting into his seat.

If another fiddler is present, the play-

ing is soon resumed, and other dancers vie with each other as to who will exhibit the greatest muscular force and endurance, until daylight puts a stop to the fun.

The natives, of all kinds and classes, enjoy these dances immensely, and declare that they always feel better after them, which I well believe, as they are the nearest approach to a Turkish bath they will ever have, and they certainly look—well — *brighter* afterwards. — WILLIAM OGILVIE.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Mr. J. Ellard Gore, F.R.A.S., has again laid amateur astronomers under an obligation; this time by publishing (Crosby Lockwood & Son) a neat manual, which he has called an "Astronomical Glossary." The book contains nearly all the technical and scientific terms and names met with by active workers, and gives terse, but full and clear, explanations and definitions. It is a very timely publication, and, we hope, will soon run into the second edition, when, in our opinion, opportunity might properly be taken to syllabicate, accentuate, and even to give the accurate pronunciation of many words adopted into our language, but which are the "terror" of amateurs when reading papers or speaking in public. Samples of such words may be found in "Andromeda," "Antares," "Betelgeuse," "Ophiuchus," and even "Pleiades." About these, and many other words, there is often, in the minds of beginners and of others, for that matter, doubt as to the proper syllable to be accentuated, and so on. A far from complete list appeared in *The English Mechanic*, showing that there is really a necessity for some accurate determination by some one—and who better than Mr. Gore?

Mr. G. P. Serviss, author of "Astronomy with an Opera-Glass," proved to be an admir-

able lecturer at his recent visit here with "Urania." He speaks without notes, is clear and graphic in his style, and has a pleasant though ringing voice, easily heard everywhere in the largest halls. He is evidently the coming platform exponent of astronomy, and is much needed since the death of the lamented Proctor, whose mantle he seems easily able to assume, and wear with great credit to himself. Those who have his book will be glad to know that it has rapidly run through six editions, and that the seventh is now in press.

Mercury will not be visible in January. Venus will, however, be a more brilliant object than in December, and will attain her maximum on the 10th inst., when her light will be as 218 to 145 on the 1st of December. On the evening of the 10th, she will be near the new moon, and they will form a lovely pair of celestial objects. Mars is slowly coming into a fair position for observation. Jupiter will never be seen to better advantage than in January of this year. During the month he will be stationary in Taurus. Saturn is rapidly coming into position for observation, and will rise about midnight on the 14th, and about four minutes earlier each subsequent evening. He is in Virgo, near Spica.—G. E. L.

BOOK NOTICES.

Essays on Questions of the Day: Political and Social. By GOLDWIN SMITH, D.C.L. New York and London: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 360 pp.

This volume, which, it is needless to say, is brought out with the beautiful typographical appearance that characterizes all the works of Prof. Smith, is timely and very interesting. The subjects treated are Social and Industrial Revolution, Disestablishment, The Political Crisis in England, Woman Suffrage, The Jewish Question, The Irish Question, Prohibition in Canada and the United States, and, as an appendix:—The Oneida Community and American Socialism. The author's opinions, as he explains in

the preface, "are those of a Liberal of the old school, as yet unconverted to State Socialism; who looks for further improvement, not to the increase of the authority of government, but to the same agencies, moral, intellectual and economical, which have brought us thus far, and one of which, Science, is now operating with immensely increased power." He looks for improvement, not regeneration; he expects improvement still to be as it has been, gradual; and hopes much from steady, calm and harmonious effort, little from violence or revolution. Of course, Prof. Smith's general attitude and tendencies, as defined here, are known to very many the world over who are well acquainted with his knowledge as a historian, and the lucid, concise, and graceful

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