

## LITERATURE.

GEOGRAPHY: by C. W. Larison, M. D., part I., the Orient. 12mo, pp. 208. Fonic Publishing House, Ringos, N. J. Price, 75 c.

Besides primers and early reading books for teaching to read by pronouncing methods, a want is felt for text-books in the elementary subjects—in none more than in geography in which pronunciation of the names of places forms a stumbling block. When an ordinary treatise on geog. tries to give orthoepy of proper names it as a rule leaves both pupil and tutor worse confounded than before. This is due to attempting to denote pronunciation by old 5-vowel alphabet to which it is wholly inadequate. We suppose considerations like the above have induced Dr L., who is principal of Academy of Science and Art at Ringos N. J., and formerly professor of Natural Science in the university at Lewisburg, Pa., to produce this volume, which is well printed on excellent paper. Not only are the names of places given in pronouncing orthography, but the book is printed throughout in an alphabet with 13 vowel signs, thus:

Sound a a e e i i o o u u  
 az in art at ale alle eel it l or ox no up put do  
 A pupil, then, while ostensibly learning geography, is learning pronunciation or else is having mispronunciation corrected and that without any necessary supervision by the tutor—two birds killed with one stone. It is a careful synopsis of geography having these advantages superadded and supplies a want long felt by all educators. We wish for a little more care in expunging printers' errors and that some more or less acknowledged standard in orthoepy had been followed. A general adherence to Webster appears implied, but personal preferences crop out. We hope the second part, which is to deal with western hemisphere, and a second edition of the first, will lack these defects. In orthoepy, as in astronomy, there must be elimination of the *personal equation*. Departures from an accepted standard should be made on well defined and generally approved principles. On page 152 we read:

The Plan of Hungary, or of the Upper Dan'ub, is rolling, well watered and fertile; the Plan of Bohemia, drained by the Elbe, is well drained and fertile; the Plan of Galishia, drained by the Dniester, is rich in quality of soil.

The observant reader will notice that *e* is given as vowel in *the*: that a single sign is used for *ny*; that single type digraphs are used; that in *soil* *oi* is used where *oi* would be expected, that *a* is frequently found; that there is great similarity between the above alphabet and that of Vickroy's *Matthew* as given page 60, as also ours to denote pronunciation with secondary resemblance to that of Knudsen—harbinger of ultimate accord; that *y* marks long or short is used as alternative for *v*, in *ill* or *isle* respectively. The comma under *c* is employed to denote sound *s*; *us* also dotted *g* to denote a soft *g* or *j* sound (after Webster). Examples, rec. civil, danger, geography. Such marks let us make greater resemblances to present shapes of words. Whether use of such is desirable is an open question.

THE TENTING SCHOOL: a Description of the Tours taken and Field-Work done by Class in Geography in Academy of Science and Art at Ringos, N. J., during 1882, by C. W. Larison, M. D. 12mo pp. 292. Ringos, N. J. 1883. Price 75 cents.

This book published by its author, while interesting for its more descriptive of New Jersey, is to us still more so because printed in old spelling in a system of diacritics—Websterian marks nearly. Some five or six years ago Mr C. P. Simpson of Leamington, Ont., published a like system. Dr L. appears to have abandoned his for that in his Geography—a great advance in our opinion. It thus marks a stage of development. Marked letters still used by him are rudiments of this early stage. With a little farther advance he will about "hit it."

## O U G H.

'Tis not an easy thing to show  
 How o u g h sounds, since though  
 An Irish tough and English slough  
 And cough and hiccough, all slow,  
 Differ as much as tough and through  
 There seems no reason why they do.

Mr C. H. Ames writes from Boston to *Jur. Am. Orthoepy*: "That every syllable contains a vowel cannot be sustained except by quibbling in definition of a consonant, because all continuant consonants would have to be called vowels to establish such a law. The liquids and nasals [l, r, m, n, ng] are continuants, i. e. their proper sound can be prolonged indefinitely without a vowel. Hence any one of them can make a syllable by itself after a mute." This agrees with Phye's statement on page 28, and with Prof. Skeat's on page 60.