

to be recommended, on account of its intrinsic value and accuracy, its completeness and its modest price—eight shillings.

*Bell's Indian and Colonial Library.* (London and Bombay: George Bell & Sons., through the Copp, Clark Co., Toronto). (1) "Diana of the Crossways." By George Meredith. (2) "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel" By George Meredith. These novels are well known to readers of George Meredith, and this edition (in paper) is not expensive and very convenient. Summer reading in fiction of a good kind is generally found in this Indian and Colonial Library.

Number fifty-nine of the *Riverside Literature Series*, which the publishers (Messrs. Houghton Mifflin & Co., Boston) have kindly sent to us, is entitled "Verse and Prose for Beginners," and is an interesting collection of Nursery and Nonsense Rhymes, Proverbs, short poems, etc., admirably adapted for little children. The printing and binding are very well done.

*A History of English Poetry.* By W. J. Courthope, M.A. (London and New York: MacMillan & Co., through the Copp, Clark Co., Toronto.) Pope, Gray, Warton and doubtless many others have had it in mind to write a History of English Poetry, the three named having gone as far as making Notes or Outlines of a general plan of the work. Certainly it is a noble ambition and there is no little necessity that in this and other ways, the study of our language at its best should be steadily and generally prosecuted, when it is spoken all over the world, when its influence increases every year, and there is an inflow from every direction of new things, and new words or phrases to express them. The first volume, as it now appears in handsome dress from the press of Messrs. MacMillan, deals of course,

with the beginning of things and promises well for future volumes. Its plan is somewhat indicated in the preface: "In this history I have looked for the unity of the subject precisely where the political historian looks for it, namely, in the life of the nation as a whole. My aim has been to treat poetry as an expression of the imagination, not simply of the individual poet, but of the English people; to use the facts of political and social history as keys to the poet's meaning, and to make poetry clothe with life and character the dry record of external facts." From the time of Chaucer to the time of Scott, is the compass of this work, and Volume I, which is now issued, carries it to the rise of the English drama. The work is destined, we think, to be one of considerable importance, and we look forward to the issue of succeeding volumes with much interest and pleasure. Mr. Courthope, like most other writers of the present time, has taken great account of the general reader, and his work shows research and scholarship.

We have received from the Canada Publishing Co., Toronto, "Lessons in Entrance Literature," edited by Fred H. Sykes, M.A., Ph.D., of which an advertisement appears in this number.

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"As undigested food burdens the body, and impedes the free action of its organs, so undigested reading clogs the mind, and interferes with intellectual activity. It is when we are spending thought of our own on a subject that the appetite for mental nutriment is restored, and that we can actually assimilate what we receive."—*Marcus Dods.*

It is the distinctive mark of genius that it lights its own fire.—*John Foster.*

"Reading is the idlest of human occupations."—*Bishop Butler.*