

of these. He is a true poet who has poetic feeling and exquisite taste, united with the most thorough knowledge of art and measure, and he writes neither for fame nor pelf.

THE CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLES TO THE EPHESIANS AND TO THE COLOSSIANS. By the Rev. Dr. T. K. Abbott of Trinity College. Price 2.50. New York. Scribner's Sons.

This is one of the new volumes in the International Critical series published by Charles Scribner's Sons. It is gotten up in the same style as the preceding volumes and maintains the same high standard as to scholarship. In fact, if the volume has a fault at all it is that of being too scholarly. The writer quotes from all the Greek and Latin authorities in the original without translating, sometimes expresses his own views by a Latin phrase rather than an English one, and altogether assumes a classical knowledge on the part of his readers which will make the book rather tiresome reading to many a Bible student whose acquaintance of the ancient languages has grown a little rusty. We cannot help feeling that this is a rather pedantic mistake which might well enough have been avoided without at all damaging the writer's reputation for learning or the usefulness of the work. In this respect he has not been so wise as his predecessors in the same series. There is no question, however, about the writer's competence for the work assigned him and the conspicuous ability with which it has been carried out. These two Epistles, Ephesians and Colossians go well together as having been written at the same time, and containing so much matter in common. There is enough of difference, however, in the questions raised to make them separately interesting. In reference to the Ephesians, for example, there is the vexed question as to its real destination. Dr. Abbott virtually accepts the view steadily growing in favor that it was a circular letter to the various churches of Asia. As to the Colossians there is the whole problem of the Gnostic errors referred to. Here Dr. Abbott has no contribution to make of his own at all comparable to the essays of Bishop Lightfoot, and is usually content to refer the reader to this standard commentary for further information. Dr. Abbott everywhere shows himself thoroughly acquainted with the history of the exegesis of these Epistles and marshalls the different opinions in a masterly way. He proves himself generally more skilful in stating objections to them, one after another, than in otherwise defending his own. This is often left to stand merely as the only one to which he knows no serious objection, and not infrequently is stated in such an obscure or incidental way as to leave one in doubt at the end of a comment as to what his own view is. We need to read a second time before we discover it. When we do discover it we are generally impressed with its sanity and good common sense. We miss, however, the side discussions of theological and other kindred questions arising out of the Epistle which form such a strong and attractive feature in Sanday's Romans. The style is everywhere easy and yet to the point. The work cannot be said to be absolutely the best commentary in the language on these Epistles but not many better ones can be named and it will worthily take its place in a series that so far has maintained a high level.

THE PINK FAIRY BOOK. By Andrew Lang. Price \$2. Longmans Green & Co., London. The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto.

"The Pink Fairy Book," edited by Andrew Lang, with numerous illustrations, contains fairy tales from many tongues, including quite a number from the Japanese. They are all of the old-fashioned kind which have been fashionable for centuries upon centuries, and will doubtless please for as many generations to come. There are giants, here, and dwarfs and seven-headed snakes, and sea serpents and mermaids and hobgoblins and witches, and all manner of wild beasts and other creatures which make things exciting for the little people.

THE LIBRARY OF USEFUL STORIES. Price 10c. D. Appleton & Sons, New York.

This valuable series of little books should meet with a large sale among the homes of our thinking people, as they bring scientific and other rather uninteresting subjects before the reader in a concise and fascinating manner. The series comprises "The Story of the Stars" by E. G. Chambers with twenty four illustrations, "The Story of the Earth" by Prof. H. G. Seeley; "The Story of Germ Life" by W. H. Conn; "The Story of the Planets" by Grant Allen; "The Story of the Atmosphere" by Douglas Archibald; "The Story of Electricity" by John Munroe, illustrated; and "The Story of the Extinct Civilization of the East" by Robert E. Anderson, illustrated.

Rev. Francis I. Clark, of Christian Endeavor fame, has recently issued a little booklet known as "The Great Secret," dealing with

various phases of the Christian Life. The little work which sells for 30c. is issued by the United Society of Christian Endeavor, Washington St., Boston.

GLASINGS IN BUDDHA FIELDS. By Lafcadio Hearn. Price \$1.25. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

Delightful—with the word underlined. The author has lived long enough in Japan to escape the complacent assumption that all who live in the Occident are civilized, and none besides. He has learned to love the Japanese and to see things with their eyes, and he sees beautiful things. We are introduced with kindly appreciation and charming naivete to the folk-lore, the street songs, the art, the philosophy, the inner life of Japan. Mr. Hearn is Lecturer in English Literature in the Imperial University, Japan, and has the touch of the literary artist. He can in elegant English unfold what he feels. The get up of the book is as near perfection as books can very well reach,—as might be expected from the Cambridge University Press.

The Presbyterian Board of Philadelphia have issued what will undoubtedly be of a good deal of interest to the Presbyterians throughout the land at this particular time, when the anniversary of the Westminster Assembly is brought so forcibly before their minds. It is a fac-simile of the draft of the Shorter Catechism presented by the Westminster Assembly to the House of Lords and Commons on the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth days of November, 1647. The style of the old old English is maintained and the paper has been specially made to represent the ancient document.

MAGAZINES.

"Christ and His Time," the great Religious serial now running in the *National Magazine* is drawing to a close. The most dramatic and tragic pictures of the life of Christ are treated in the December issue. The serial is one that holds interest from the first line to the last.

Prof. William Z. Ripley leads the list of contributors in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* for December with a paper on "The Racial Geography of the British Isles." The wide extent of territory governed by English-speaking people, and the preponderating influence which they have had in the advancement of civilization, render this article one of the most important of the series. "Are there Planets among the Stars?" is a discussion by Garrett P. Serviss of some of the questions raised by Dr. See in a recent paper on this subject. Mr. Serviss takes issue with Dr. See on several points, and contends that, notwithstanding the eccentricities of the double stars, we may still cherish the belief that there are eyes to see and minds to think out in celestial space. Another article of special interest is that on "Animated Pictures," by J. Miller Barr. "The Teaching of Applied Science," by M. Ch. Lauth, discusses this important department of education, especially in its bearing on the commercial prosperity of a country. M. Gustave Le Bon, under the title "The Life History of Scientific Ideas," shows that scientific theory is subject to the same general law of evolution which the scientist claims is at work in the other departments of knowledge.

The Christmas number of the *Century* reflects much of the holiday spirit. The opening article is "Merry Christmas in the Tenements," by Jacob A. Riis, author of "How the Other Half Lives" and other studies of life in the tenement districts of New York. The article has many characteristic illustrations by Jay Hambidge. Clarence Cook contributes a sketch of the author of the familiar poem of childhood, "Twas the Night before Christmas," and a portrait is given of the author, Dr. Clement C. Moore. The late General Francis A. Walker is represented by a paper on "The Causes of Poverty." W. Lewis Fraser writes a critical sketch of "A Religious Painter." A richly illustrated paper on "Tennyson and His Friends at Freshwater" is written by V. C. Scott-O'Connor, and contains many new portraits of the Tennyson family published with the consent of the present Lord Tennyson. Miss Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore tells of "The Wonderful Morning Glories of Japan," which are taking the place of the chrysanthemum in the affections of the Japanese people. The magazine as usual contains numerous other articles of deep interest.

The Christmas number of *Chalmers' Journal* contains beside the ordinary attractive list of contents "The Millionaire of Harburgh Island," "Witness to the Marriage," "The Last Voyage of Martin Valance." With this number ends the 14th volume of the fifth series. The programme for the coming year is very attractive and should commend itself to those who desire a high class family Magazine for their households.