

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MR. A. C. WHEELER ("Nym Crinkle") has completed a novel called "A Romance of New York."

TENNYSON recently wrote to a London friend that he would never again write a poem for publication.

THE next volume in the "Great Writers" Series, to be published in June, will be "Byron," by Hon. Roden Noel.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway have issued a very handsome map showing the whole of their system including the U.S. connections.

It is reported that Mr. Stanley's book will be dedicated to Sir William Mackinnon. Stanley speaks in somewhat contemptuous terms of Emin Pasha's vacillation.

THE Clarendon Press has received the first part of the "Shelley Lexical Concordance" from Mr. F. S. Ellis, which the author hopes to finish for the Shelley centenary in 1892.

MR. DAVID STOTT announces "Les Caractères," by La Bruyère, translated by Helen Stott, as the first of a half-crown library of translations, to be known as "The Foreign Favourite" Series.

MRS. HUMPHREY WARD has put aside her new novel, owing to her labours with the new "University Hall Movement" in London. It is therefore doubtful whether the book will see print this year.

MESSRS. TRISCHLER AND COMPANY are preparing "The Witness-Box; or, the Murder of Mr. A. B. C.," a sensational story by Miss Vera Karsland and her brother, Mr. Collis Karsland, in collaboration.

MESSRS. CHAPMAN AND HALL have in the press "Round the Calendar in Portugal," by Mr. Oswald Crawford, H. M. Consul at Oporto. Also a translation of "The Future of Science," the new work by M. Renan.

THERE is a likelihood of the series of articles "By Land and Sea," contributed by Sir Edwin Arnold to the London *Daily Telegraph*, and referring largely to the United States, being collected and published in book shape in the autumn.

MR. WILLIAM HEINEMANN has in hand an authorised edition of Mr. Whistler's "The Gentle Art of Making Enemies"; also "The Moment After," a new story, and "The Coming Terror," a volume of essays, by Mr. Robert Buchanan.

A BOOK about the stage which should prove interesting is "The Life and Reminiscences of E. L. Blanchard," now in the press in London. It is edited by Mr. Clement Scott, the dramatic critic, and will have numerous portraits and other illustrations.

BENJ. R. TUCKER informs the *Publishers' Weekly* that his translation of Tolstoi's "Kreutzer Sonata" was not made from the German. He does not state, though, that it was made from the original. However produced, it appears to be a most offensive book.

MR. GEORGE ALLEN, of Bell Yard, Temple Bar, and Orpington, Kent, will publish a volume by Mr. Joseph Forster at the close of this month, entitled "Four Great Teachers." It is understood that the book consists of lectures on Carlyle, Emerson, Browning and Ruskin.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD is occupying his leisure in Japan with the composition of a new epic poem, entitled "The Light of the World," the subject being the Founder of Christianity and his doctrines. It is understood that the treatment of these topics and the method of the work will be distinctly original.

MR. EDWARD ARNOLD will be the English publisher of "A History of the Veto Power in the United States," by Mr. E. Campbell Mason; and of "An Introduction to the Study of Federal Governments," by Mr. A. Bushnell Hart. These monographs are to be issued by the authority of the Harvard University as, it is hoped, the beginning of a series.

At the dinner of the Canada Club held in London, Eng., on May 14th, Col. G. T. Denison in responding for the "Army, Navy and Reserve Forces" said that to loyal Canadians it was beyond comprehension how Britain could allow her powerful iron-clads to be idle while British subjects were outraged in Behring Sea and the British flag insulted.

THE new volume of the "Contemporary Science" Series, published in this country by Scribner and Welford, will be "The Criminal," by Havelock Ellis, with numerous illustrations of criminal heads, faces, etc., and reproductions of some composite photographs of twenty or more criminals. Following this will be "Sanity and Insanity," by Dr. Charles Mercier, with numerous illustrations.

MATTERS of interest in the June *Popular Science Monthly* will be a discussion of "The Antiquity of Man and Egyptology," by Andrew D. White; an article on glassmaking, by Prof. C. H. Henderson; the concluding chapters "On Justice," by Herbert Spencer, and a paper describing "Certain Evidences of Glacial Action in South-Eastern Connecticut," by David A. Wells.

MESSRS. REMINGTON AND COMPANY are going to publish an English translation of Count Tolstoi's much talked of "Kreutzer Sonata." It will be interesting to learn who has undertaken the translation. It was to have been done by the American writer, Miss Isabel Hapgood, but *The Review of Reviews* states that on being confronted with the manuscript the lady declined the commission.

"THE Anglomaniacs," the new anonymous serial of New York life, which is begun in the June *Century*, is said to be written by a well qualified observer; and, while

it satirizes a certain current fad, is a serious and not a prejudiced study of the Anglomaniacs which characterizes a small part of the population. The book has two heroes, both English, and one of them representing one of the best English types.

MISS KATE PEARSON WOOD's book, "Metzerott, Shoemaker," has created an interest analogous to Bellamy's "Looking Backward." Both these books and their theories are reviewed in a clever essay by Julian Hawthorne in the June number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. Miss Jeannette L. Gilder contributes an amusing character sketch to the same number, entitled "Joy," and another clever woman, Miss Agnes Repplier, writes a piquant essay upon "Reality in Fiction."

In a literary note in our issue of May 9th we called attention to the apparent plagiarism of Blake Crofton's stories by an English periodical, which at that time was suppressing the name of the author and of his book. We are now glad to learn that the proprietors of the *Magazine of Short Stories* have, for an adequate consideration, obtained Mr. Crofton's consent to publish the tales of "Major Mendax" to their close; and have agreed to print an acknowledgment of their authorship.

THE success of Mr. Andrew Lang's clever "Letters to Dead Authors" arouses an expectation of amusing things in his latest experiment in "epistolary parody," which comes out under the title "Old Friends" (Longmans, Green and Co.). The notion that contemporary characters in fiction must have sometimes met in so small a world is a fertile one, and under light treatment may be made productive of entertainment; but a less ready brain than Mr. Lang's might well hesitate to put it to the proof.

PHILADELPHIA is said to have organized a Rudyard Kipling Club, upon which the *Tribune* remarks: "It is safe to say that not one man or woman in a hundred in Philadelphia and, we may add, in New York, knows whether Rudyard Kipling is a man or a new brand of tobacco. Even in England, where his fame is so rapidly spreading, he is still far from being a household word. This being the case, the formation of clubs in this country to burn incense under the nose of this new literary light is worse than Ibsenism."

MR. STANLEY's article in the June *Scribner* (the first account that he has put before the public) reviews the chief points of his expedition and its difficulties, and for the first time supplies the public with Mr. Stanley's own view of Emin Pasha's position and the questions involved in his departure from his province; while the body of the article is occupied with a story of adventure and suffering almost unparalleled, at a culminating point of the expedition, which the explorer has chosen for his first detailed description. The illustrations have been made from probably the most remarkable series of photographs ever published, a large number of these having been taken in the forest, through which no white man had ever before passed.

MR. EDMUND GOSSE has republished, in an attractive little volume, "Robert Browning: Personalities" (Houghton, Mifflin and Co.), the article originally contributed by him to the *Century* nearly nine years ago upon the "Early Career of Robert Browning." This paper was written from material furnished by Browning himself in conversation, and was approved by him, and consequently is authoritative. It recounts in a pleasant narrative style the events of the poet's life until his marriage, and describes his circumstances. The more important portion is that detailing the relations between him and Macready, and the history of the performance of his plays when first written. To this paper a few "personal impressions" are appended, which appeared in the *New Review* after Browning's death.

A NEW quarterly, of a novel character, is announced for publication on May 1 by Messrs. George Routledge and Sons, who have hitherto been one of the very few leading publishers without a magazine of their own. It is to be called *Subjects of the Day*, and its special plan is to deal systematically with important subjects of the day, in a series of articles written by experts, together with a general summary, reviews of books, and a bibliography. For example, the first number will have for its subject "State Education for the People"; and among the contributors will be Sir William Hunter, Sir Philip Magnus, Rev. E. F. M. MacCarthy, of Birmingham; Edward M. Hance, of Liverpool; and Mrs. Emily Crawford. The editor is James Samuelson, author of works of travel in Roumania, India, etc.

THERE have been a few literary puzzles more discussed lately than the division of work between the authors of the Besant and Rice novels. Mr. Brander Matthews, in an article on the "Art of Collaboration" in this week's *Christian Union*, says: "I have heard that, of the long series of stories published under the name of Besant and Rice, all that the late James Rice actually wrote with his own pen was the first chapter or two of their first book, 'Ready-Money Mortiboy.' . . . Comparing the novels of dual authorship with those of the survivor alone, it is perhaps possible to ascribe to Mr. Rice a fancy for foreign characters and a faculty of rendering them vigorously, a curious scent for actual oddity, a bolder handling than Mr. Besant's, and a stronger fondness for dramatic incident, not to say melodramatic. The joint novels have a certain kinship to the virile tales of Charles Reade, but little trace of this family likeness is to be found in the later works of Mr. Besant alone, whose manner is gentler and more caressing, with a more delicate humour and a subtler flavour of irony."

SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.

DEGRAISSAGE.

WE are constantly hearing of extraordinary surgical operations, but the most astounding that has been performed is that of *degraisage*, or the removal of fat from the body. Doctors Marx and Demars have carried out the operation upon a literary man, M. Hiroguelle. They raised the skin and cut away four-and-a-quarter pounds of the adipose tissue. The patient was under chloroform while thus being pared away. The skin was then stitched up. More than a week has passed since the operation, and M. Hiroguelle now feels quite well, and is overjoyed at the improvement in his figure. He says he only suffered from headache, the effect of the chloroform. It is arranged that he is to undergo further parings or *degraisages* in other parts of the body.—*Daily News*.

MILK IN ITS RELATION TO HEALTH.

At a recent meeting of the Central Manchester Dairy Farmers' Association, Dr. Fox, the medical officer for Mid-Cheshire, delivered an address on "Milk in its Relation to the Public Health," in which he pointed out that milk was unique in the degree of susceptibility with which it absorbed elements from the surrounding atmosphere, and the liquid readily assimilated germs of disease, which were multiplied within itself with marvellous rapidity. Infant mortality and consumption were the reproach of all urban sanitary districts and many rural ones, and he contended that the one factor which could operate remedially upon these weak spots in sanitary defence allied itself with the question of milk supply. It would hardly be believed how little milk was known as an article of diet in the houses of the poor, and Dr. Tatham, the medical officer of health for Manchester, had stated that thousands of children were now being reared in that city who scarcely knew even the taste of milk. The result was that they pined away and swelled the terrible infant death-roll. It had been ascertained beyond the possibility of doubt that cows affected with tuberculosis or consumption yielded tuberculous milk, capable of transmitting consumption to those who might partake of it in a raw state. He urged that the use of unwholesome milk collected from stall-fed cattle might at any moment become deadly, and be an equivalent to an increase of the seeds of consumption sown amongst the unsuspecting artisan population. But the question might fairly be asked whether milk is really beneficial to children or adults.—*Public Opinion*.

If physicians were obliged to write their prescriptions in plain English their practice might fall off, but their patients would live longer to bless the change.—*Boston Globe*.

ACCORDING to the *Medical Brief* Dr. Flint says: "I have never known a dyspeptic to recover vigorous health who undertook to live after a strictly regulated diet, and I have never known an instance of a healthy person living according to a dietetic system who did not become a dyspeptic."

A WRITER in the *North China Herald*, of Shanghai, says that the climate of Asia is becoming colder than it formerly was, and its tropical animals and plants are retreating southwards at a slow rate. This is true of China, and it is also the case in Western Asia. The elephant in a wild state was hunted in the eighth century B.C., by Tiglath Pileser, the King of Assyria, near Carchemish, which lay near the Euphrates in Syria. Four or five centuries before this, Thothmes III., King of Egypt, hunted the same animal near Aleppo. In high antiquity the elephant and rhinoceros were known to the Chinese, they had names for them, and their tusks and horns were valued. South China has a very warm climate, which melts insensibly into that of Cochin-China; so that the animals of the Indo-Chinese peninsula would, if there were a secular cooling of climate, retreat gradually to the south. This is just what seems to have taken place. In the time of Confucius, elephants were in use for the army on the Yangtse River. A hundred and fifty years after this, Mencius speaks of the tiger, the leopard, the rhinoceros, and the elephant as having been, in many parts of the empire, driven away from the neighbourhood of the Chinese inhabitants by the founders of the Chou dynasty. Tigers and leopards are not yet by any means extinct in China. The elephant and rhinoceros are again spoken of in the first century of our era. If to these particulars regarding elephants be added the retreat from the rivers of South China of the ferocious alligators that formally infested them, the change in the fauna of China certainly seems to show that the climate is much less favourable for tropical animals than it formerly was; in fact, it appears to have become dryer and colder. The water-buffalo still lives, and is an extremely useful domestic animal, all along the Yangtse and south of it, but is not seen north of the old Yellow River in the province of Kiangsu. The Chinese alligator is still found on the Yangtse, but so rare is its appearance that foreign residents in China knew nothing about it till it was described by M. Fauvel. The flora is also affected by the increasing coldness of the climate in China. The bamboo is still grown in Peking, with the aid of good shelter, moisture, and favourable soil; but it is not found naturally growing into forest in North China, as was its habit two thousand years ago. It grows now in that part of the empire as a sort of garden plant only. It is in Szechuan province that the southern flora reaches farthest to the northward.—*Science*.