

Literary Notices.

THE PULPIT TREASURY (E. B. Treat, Publisher, New York) for May commences the fifth year of this progressive magazine. No need of the preacher or Christian worker is overlooked. "Failures in Prayer Meeting," by Rev. S. Baker, is a very suggestive article.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW (Funk & Wagnalls, New York) for May is an exceptionally good number. The leading article on "The Miraculous Element in the Egyptian Plagues," is a fresh and able presentation of the subject. The same professor of Homiletics who gave his estimate of Dr. Talmage as a preacher in the April number, estimates Mr. Beecher in this issue. We refer to this elsewhere. The Sermonic Section contains Dr. Hall's sermon at the funeral of Mr. Beecher.

LAND, LABOUR AND LIQUOR. By Rev. W. Burgess, of Listowel. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs, Willard Tract Depository.)—Under the above alliterative title are discussed "Our Natural Resources," "Labour, Productive, Non-productive and Destructive," "Capital, What It Is," and "Misdirected," "Over-Production," "Overcrowding," "Co-operation," "Knights of Labour, and Labour Unions Generally, in Their Relation to the Liquor Traffic," "Wages," "Wages and Whiskey," "The National Drink Bill," "Liquor, in its Relation to Crime, Insanity, Pauperism and Longevity." There is repetition here and there, yet this is not easily avoided in a treatise discussing so many closely related subjects. The style in which it is written is calm and clear. There are few direct verbal appeals to the sympathies of the reader. The facts are allowed to speak for themselves. And powerfully they do speak, as from every available quarter they come in troops. In the preface, the author refers to the need he felt for a handy volume as a text book for Canadian Temperance Reformers. This need, felt also by others, he has in large measure supplied, and his work in these pages will doubtless bring forth abundant fruit in the coming renewed struggle with the liquor traffic in the form of "Scott Act Repeal" and further prohibitory legislation. This volume would be useful in the hands of all engaged in temperance and philanthropic work, in relieving the masses from the evils under which they suffer.

THE CENTURY for May is exceptionally interesting. From two profusely illustrated articles, describing the discovery of Pharaoh's tomb and picturing its contents, we quote the account of the way in which the tomb was located and discovered:—"In a line of tombs beyond the Ramesseum lived four sturdy Arabs named Abd-er-Rasoul. They supplied guides and donkeys to tourists who desired to visit the ruins of Thebes, and sold them genuine and spurious antiquities. When they found a mummy, it being forbidden by law to sell it, the head and hands and feet were wrenched off and sold on the sly, while the torso was kicked about the ruined temples until the jackals came and carried it away. I purchased a head and hand of one of the brothers amid the dark shadows of the temple at Qirneh. Early in 1881 circumstantial evidence pointed to Ahmed Abd-er-Rasoul as the one who knew more than he would tell.

Professor Maspero caused his arrest, and he lay in prison at Kench for some months. He also suffered the bastinado and the browbeating of the women repeatedly; he resisted bribes, and showed no melting mood when threatened with execution. His lips told no more than the unfound tomb and not as much. Finally his brother Mohammed regarded the offer of 'bakshish,' which Professor Maspero deemed it wise to make, as worth more to him than any sum he might hope to realize from future pillaging, and made a clean breast of the whole affair. How the four brothers ever discovered the hidden tomb has remained a 'family secret.' On July 5, 1881, the wily Arab conducted Herr Emil Brugsch Bey, curator of the Bûlâq Museum, to Derr-el-Bahari, and pointed out the hiding-place so long looked for. A long climb it was, up the slope of the western mountain, till, after scaling a great limestone cliff, a huge, isolated rock was found. Behind this a spot was reached where the stones appeared to an expert observer and tomb-searcher to have been arranged 'by hand,' rather than scattered by some upheaval of nature. 'There,' said the sullen guide; and 'there' the enterprising Emil Brugsch Bey, with more than Egyptian alacrity, soon had a staff of Arabs at work hoisting the loose stones from a well into which they had been thrown. The shaft had been sunk into the solid limestone to the depth of about forty feet, and was about six feet square. Before going very far, a huge palm log was thrown across the well, and a block and tackle fastened to it to help bring up the debris. When the bottom of the shaft was reached a subterranean passage was found which ran westward, some twenty-four feet and then turned directly northward, continuing into the heart of the mountain straight, except where broken for about two hundred feet by an abrupt stairway. The passage terminated in a mortuary chamber about thirteen by twenty-three feet in extent, and barely six feet in height. There was found the mummy of King Pharaoh of the Oppression, with nearly forty others of kings, queens, princes and priests." From an equally interesting article by Professor Atwater, of Wesleyan University, on "The Chemistry of Foods," we quote:—"In a number of States in which the dairy interests are large, the manufacture and sale of butter substitutes has been prohibited by legislative action. In other States laws have been enacted to regulate their sale and prevent fraud. An attempt was made in Congress to check the manufacture and sale by taxation sufficient to bring their cost nearly up to that of butter. In the law as actually passed, however, the tax was very much reduced, so that while it may help toward preventing improper sale of butter substitutes, and, by obliging sellers to pay high license fees, may considerably interfere with their general use, it will not be as effective in excluding them from the markets as was desired. This is a case where mechanical invention, aided by science, is enabled to furnish a cheap, wholesome and nutritious food for the people. Legislation to provide for official inspection of this, as of other food products, and to insure that it shall be sold for what it is, and not for what it is not, is very desirable. Every reasonable measure to prevent fraud, here as elsewhere, ought to be welcomed. But the attempt to curtail or suppress the production of a cheap and useful food material by law, lest the profits which a class, the