

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

Appleton's Popular Science Monthly for March contains a translation of an address by Dr. Wilhelm Oswald on "The Failure of Scientific Materialism" in which he affirms that the theory based on matter and force should be replaced by one resting on energy. Herbert Spencer in this number contributes a chapter in his series on "Professional Institutions" dealing with the Painter. Prof. M. V. O'Shea gives a thoughtful treatment of "Educational Values" in the Elementary School.

The editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal* contributes to the March number an interesting sketch of "Mary Anderson as She is To-Day," there is also an account of "Paderevski's Daily Life" which will be appreciated by his admirers. Along with other special contributions the usual departments and continued fiction will be found most readable. We must not omit to mention the first story, by Eugene Field, which is announced to be the only unpublished manuscript left by him and which is powerful and well-written.

It is probable that the majority of *Scribner's* readers are at present more interested in "Sentimental Tommy," than in any of the other excellent work that may be found in the March number. It is in many ways an odd story, but there can be no doubt of the hold it takes upon the mind of anyone reading it. The characters have the supreme merit of existence and are not merely shadowy figures. Personally we have to confess to a passion for the little sister.

H. C. Bunner writes a story of "A Lost Child" which reads so convincingly that it must have been

experienced. "The Little Field of Peace," a poem by C. G. D. Roberts, in which a child appears again, is not the least touching of them all.

"Fontenoy," by Frederick Dixon, an historical article of unusual merit, which originally appeared in *Temple Bar* is reproduced in *Littell's Living Age* of March 14th.

The last issue of the *Youth's Companion* comes in a very attractive spring dress of blue and white. The first story is a very pretty one for girls, and it is a harder thing than it seems to get a good story for girls. Now and then the readers of the *Companion* find modestly put forth for their pleasure some strong and stirring tale with the name of Edward W. Thompson at the end. Such a story appears in this number of a man and his companions who were overtaken in the region of the Ottawa by the spring floods.

In the March *Atlantic Monthly* there is a second installment of Mrs. Lathrop's recollections of her father, Nathaniel Hawthorne, which give a stronger impression of the charm of his personality than we have found in any other treatment of his life. "Pirate Gold," a story in three parts, by F. J. Stimson, is concluded in this number. In artistic finish and pleasing conception the author has achieved a marked success. Sarah Orne Jewett, in the "Country of the Pointed Firs," is at her best. There is an able review of the recently issued volume of "Matthew Arnold's Letters," and the usual comment on new books.

The *Youth's Companion* gives the following as the results of calculations