

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE: Amongst the many excellent contributions that make the April number of this magazine a decided success, we notice a little gem from the gifted pen of Charles Gordon Rogers. "Futility" expresses in graceful flowing numbers, the unaccountable feeling of sadness that the human heart often experiences when awakened to a contemplation of some of the undying sorrows encountered in the stern battle of life. The beauty and sweetness of the poem would, we believe, be much enhanced if the poet were to shade his picture of sorrow and dread with a few diffused rays from the beacon-light of hope.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASTRONOMICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO, for the year 1893. Published by Rowsell & Hutchison.

The object of the society, which is to foster an interest in astronomical and physical research amongst Canadians, is certainly a very laudable one. The society has corresponding members in all the principal centres of science throughout the world, who make known to the society the result of their delving into nature's secrets. Such a society is of incalculable advantage to those who desire to keep pace with the giant strides of science in our country. Those who wish "to sift the golden grains of TRUTH from the sands of ERROR" would do well to carefully peruse such excellent papers as: "Polarization of Light," "Solar Heat," "Pythagorean Projection," and "The Luminiferous Ether." We would be pleased to see this pamphlet in the hands of every student of our University.

ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE. PHILADELPHIA, edited by EDMUND J. JAMES.

This periodical in the lengthy and diversified articles of its March number deals with social and political problems in a most methodical and masterly manner. An essay on "Justice in Political Economy" is especially worthy of note. A just distribution of economic goods is not the question which the author proposes to discuss; his object is only to

account for the fact that justice is taken as the criterion by which all transactions, whether economic or social, are judged. In doing so he gives proof of keen observation, and a thorough knowledge of the true principals on which society is based. The essay is a minute inquiry into the origin of our idea of justice, and the different standards according to which we apply it. "The Classification of Law," contained in another paper, is simple and truly philosophical, and should offer advantages for a comprehensive study of that subject, in its relation to the manifold matters which the science of law embraces. The reader, interested in the different modes of life insurance, will find an interesting article on "American Life Insurance Methods." An article entitled "Relation of Taxation to Monopolies," discusses at length various theories of taxation and points out, with clearness and precision, the important practical bearings of each. Other minor contributions and notes contain much useful information on economic and social questions.

With this number of the *Academic Annals* appears a short treatise on the History of Political Economy, a translation from the German of the historical part of Professor Cohn's well known work on "Economies and Finance." Since political economy has risen to so high a rank amongst sciences, and exerts so great an influence over the minds and legislations of the present age, the sources whence it sprung, its first products and the men who contributed to its development, must possess deep interest for the student who desires to follow the gradual progress of human thought. The need of such a work in the English language is much felt—a work delineating how measures, adopted by legislators and statesmen to meet the wants of the hour, are subject to certain principles and controlled by certain laws, which, when formulated, constitute a science. No doubt many valuable monographs have appeared on the subject, but their aim was rather to point out the causes of certain social evils or the policies that led to some national prominence, than to trace the antecedents, rise and progress of political science. The author of the present work, in the few chapters he has given us on the subject, does not intend