

children, sudden changes of temperature are dangerous, and that fifty-eight to sixty degrees may be taken as the safe average temperature in which they should be constantly kept.

Book Notices.

Messrs. A. S. Barnes & Co., announce that the editorial care and supervision of "Davies Mathematical Course, has been placed in the hands of Prof. William G. Peck, who has been associated with Prof. Davies for many years in the work of preparing and revising Mathematical text-books. Prof. Peck is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, and like Prof. Davies, he was for a long time engaged in teaching Mathematics at that institution, and like him, he has had an extended experience in Collegiate instruction.

The plan of the Mathematical Course, its general scope, and its methods of presenting Mathematical truths, have grown out of the varied experience of a long and active life, wholly devoted to a single object, and they have been approved by thousands of his fellow educators.—These leading features will not be changed; on the contrary, every effort will be directed to their continuance and to such improvements as will keep the course in harmony with the general progress of education.

[It is designed to affect a complete revision of the Series within the limits proposed, and to this end, all agents, teachers, and pupils, who may be aware of any errors either in the text, or in answers to examples, are invited to communicate the same, either to the publishers, or to Prof. William G. Peck, L. L. D., Greenwich Conn.] New-York, New Orleans, and Chicago.

An Author's Success.—A few years ago a school-book agent visited a flourishing school in Central New-York, and learned in conversation that the principal had been teaching chemistry on a plan of his own from his manuscript. Hoping to repay the favors he had received, he offered to look into the plan, and show the manuscript to his employers, with a recommendation to publish it for the use of other schools. He sent the manuscript to New-York, and went his way. The publishers discussed the matter, were much interested in the plan of the work, and as it was brief and elementary, they concluded to bring it out as a venture. They called it, "Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry," as it could be easily learned by pupils in school during the ordinary application of a single term. There had been some inquiry for text-books that should cover less ground than was common, that would interest and inspire pupils to a love of the subject, and that could be mastered quickly. The haste that marks every thing in American life was becoming necessary in study, and the short road to learning was beginning to be asked for. A scientific book had hitherto been especially dry and cumbersome. The work on chemistry now contemplated was bubbling over with interest. The experiments were such as made plain every dry fact, and their selection was judicious in that facts not important in daily and practical life were rigidly excluded, and the child was not called upon to learn them. The style of the writer was not crude and homespun, but bright and sparkling, with a tendency to carry the interest of the reader along despite his repugnance to scientific matters. Thus the writer hoped to induce many of his pupils to love the science he taught them, and to follow it further after he was through with them. All this impressed few publishers, as before said, and they invited the author to prepare it carefully for the press, and when ready, gave the little book to the public. The reception it met was most flattering. Letters of congratulation poured in from fellow-teachers, and all acknowledged the growing need of texts on such a plan. The success was so complete that all the costs of bringing out the work were paid back within a few weeks, and the publishers invited the successful writer to prepare a "Fourteen Weeks in Natural Philosophy," the material of which was already in his possession. The book came out, and immediately carried the schools by storm, and outsold the Chemistry two to one per annum. Next followed an Astronomy, then Geology, then Physiology. The books found open arms awaiting them, and seemed to pour from the press, edition after edition, to gratify a clamoring demand. Children who never had cared before to know about things in science, saw these books in the hands of mates, and bought and read for themselves, and whole communities were found suddenly awakened to a love for a study that possessed no attraction in the days of childhood. The books were sufficiently and judiciously illustrated; they were provided with valuable notes and references, review questions, directions for practical experiments, interesting scientific anecdotes applicable to the text, and full indices. They were accurate, because of the incessant watchfulness of the author, who gradually relinquished the details of his school to an assistant, and finally, after a year or two in Europe, the whole school, and devoted himself to his rapidly growing and prosperous books. He visited Europe several times, and remained for study and research; attended the lectures of eminent scientists and learned from their lips the wonderful things his books make common.

While abroad he ransacked the noted libraries, and gathered material for histories of Germany, England, and France. Of these, France was lately published, and is known as the "Brief History of France," and his "Brief History of the United States, previously published, has attained a magnificent circulation, and annually increases the ample income he is now receiving. Out of the latter has grown the standard and popular "Centenary History; or, One Hundred Years of American Independence," which gives to young people and adults, whose lives are hurried, the main facts of the American History, without burdening the reader with those that are unimportant, and covers our whole history as a nation in a single elegant volume of 700 pages.

The present year is not too short to have seen already the appearance of a new text from this facile pen. It is "Fourteen Weeks in Zoology" this time, and the critics are even now sharpening their pens for the dissection. It is pronounced by those who have already seen it altogether equal to the emergency, and the publishers hereby invite all readers to revive their knowledge of elementary and popular science by procuring a set of "Steele's Fourteen Weeks Course in all the Sciences," by Prof. J. Dorman Steele, F. R. S., Ph. D.

6 vols., 12mo, cloth, \$9.80.

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The Brief Histories of the United States and France, 12mo, cloth, each, \$1.50.

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The Centenary History: 600 pages, 8vo, cloth, \$6.00.

A. S. BARNES & Co., Publishers.

—The YOUNG FOLKS' BOOK OF AMERICAN EXPLORERS is as distinctly a "new departure" in our historical literature as was its predecessor, the "Young Folks' History of the United States." The "Book of American Explorers" is a series of narratives of discovery and adventure, told in the precise words of the discoverers themselves. It is a series of racy and interesting extracts from original narratives, or early translations of such narratives. These selections are made with care, so as to give a glimpse at the various nationalities engaged.—Norse, Spanish, French, Dutch, English, etc.—and are put together in order of time, with the needful notes and explanations. The ground covered may be seen by the following list of subjects treated in successive chapters:—The Traditions of the Norsemen, Columbus and his Companions; Cabot and Verrazzano; The Strange Voyage of Cabeza de Vaca; The French in Canada; Hernando de Soto; The French in Florida; Sir Humphrey Gilbert; The Lost Colonies of Virginia; Unsuccessful New England Settlements; Captain John Smith in Virginia; Champlain on the War-Path; Henry Hudson and the New Netherlands; The Pilgrims at Plymouth; The Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Besides the legends of the Norsemen, the book makes an almost continuous tale of adventure from 1492 to 1630, all told in the words of the explorers themselves. This is, it is believed, a far more attractive way of telling than to rewrite them in the words of another; and it is hoped that it may induce young people to explore for themselves the rich mine of historical adventure thus laid open.

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D. APPLETON & Co.,
549 & 551 Broadway, New-York.

New Paper.—We have received the Third Number of *SCHOOL and HOME*, a new Journal of Education, Literature, Science and Art, published in New-York, Judging from the present number it worthily upholds its title. We welcome it to the arena of letters and wish it every success—it will prove a welcome visitor both to the Study room and to the Home circle.

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Allumette Island,
Feb. 12th 1877.

TERENCE SMITH,
Secretary-Treasurer.

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