

occasion. "Did you ever hear me preach?" he asked Lamb. "I never heard you do anything else," was the reply.

We may find indications of the bent of Coleridge's mind, in the only considerable prose work he wrote, viz., the "Aids to Reflection." It opens with a number of aphorisms. Aphorism No. ix. says, "Life is the one universal soul, which by virtue of the enlivening Breath and the informing Word, all organized bodies have in common, each after its kind. This therefore all animals possess, and man as an animal. . . . Aphorism No. xxx. is, "What the duties of Morality are, the Apostle instructs the believer in full; comprising them under the two heads of Negative and Positive: Negative, to keep himself pure from the world; and Positive, beneficence from loving kindness; that is, love of his fellow-men (his kind) as himself."

Love of man as man, and of the lower animals as creatures of the same enlivening Breath and informing Word was the chief idea in the poet's thought and life; and it should be no matter of surprise that he taught it in the *Ancient Mariner*, as well as elsewhere. The two views we have of him from contemporary history, one at the beginning and the other at the end of his literary life, represent him as a teacher of moral truth. I have already quoted Hazlitt, and I now give a picture of him, in his latter years, from Carlyle's *Life of Sterling*:—

"Coleridge sat on the brow of Highgate Hill, in those years, looking down on London and its smoke tumult, like a sage escaped from the inanity of life's battle, attracting towards him the thoughts of innumerable brave souls still engaged there. His express contributions to poetry, philosophy, or any specific province of human literature or enlightenment, had been small and sadly intermittent; but he had especially among young enquiring men, a higher than literary, a kind of prophetic or magician character. . . . A sublime man who alone in those dark days had saved his crown of spiritual manhood, escaping from the black materialism, and revolutionary deluge, with God, freedom, and immortality still his; a King of men. The practical intellects of the world did not much heed him, or carelessly reckoned him a metaphysical dreamer; but to the rising spirits of the young generation he had this dusky sublime character, and sat there as a kind of Magus girt in mystery and enigma, his Dodona oak grove whispering strange, uncertain, whether oracles or jargon."

Coleridge was a prophet, and not a writer of meaningless fairy tales. In conclusion I cannot see the force of M. Middleton's hope, "that some people will in consequence of this (his) paper, enjoy their jam without dread of its containing any powder; will read this "most wonderful fairy tale," nor fear to find a moral at the end." The enjoyment of reading Don Quixote, Kingsley's "Water Babies," the "Ancient Mariner," or any other allegorical work is to my mind only intensified by a recognition of the underlying thought. None of us want to find powder in our jam, but we don't object to a little wholesome baking power in our breakfast rolls.

Kingston.

K. L. JONES.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

HISTORIC WATERWAYS: Six hundred miles of Canoeing down the Rock, Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. By Reuben Gold Thwaite. 298 pp., \$1.25. Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Co. Toronto: Williamson and Co.

Mr. Thwaite, who, we learn, is Secretary of the Historical Society of the State of Wisconsin, introduces us in this delightful volume to several of the historic waterways of the West, on the bosom of which he seems to have done considerable canoeing. The region of these Western "Rob Roy" excursions is one well known to historical students, and particularly to such Canadians as possess the historic memory and are familiar with the waters of the Mississippi basin, which were first explored by adventurous French Canadians about the middle of the eighteenth century. The rivers were traversed by Joliet and Marquette and were discovered on their exploring expedition to the Mississippi. They are identified in later history with the incidents of the Black Hawk war and the terrors of Indian marauding in the States that border on the Mississippi. The author happily combines the historic and descriptive features of the region traversed, and canoeists and lovers of the paddle will find in the volume much to delight as well as to interest. The character studies *en route* will be found amusing.

THE POCKET GUIDE FOR EUROPE: A Handbook for Travellers on the Continent and the British Isles, and through Egypt, Palestine and Northern Africa. By Thomas W. Knox. 18mo, 223 pp., 75 cents. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

This is another tourist's volume intended for summer. It is a complete and serviceable manual, of very handy dimensions, giving an outline of a tour of the European Continent, together with an itinerary of travel along the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean. In its brief compass only the chief points of interest are touched upon, but to what is supplied little exception can be taken. Suggestions are given of extended tours and of the probable time consumed in taking them, with some useful information respecting watering-places in England and on the Continent. Appended is a Glossary of Travel-Talk in four languages, which will be found useful to the tourist.

THE VACATION JOURNAL: A Diary of Outings from May until November. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Toronto: Williamson and Co.

This dainty volume is peculiarly a product of summer. It consists of some two hundred and fifty blank pages, with a poetical quotation at the head of each, intended for the tourist or sportsman, and designed to preserve a record of his vacation rambles in the delightful months of summer. The quotations are drawn from English and American poets alike, and serve the double purpose of inspiring the thoughts of the diarist as he sits down to make his daily entry or of putting him in a quiet reposeful mood best suited for the angler or stalker waiting patiently for his prey. Among the miscellaneous matter appended to the volume will be found what will interest the botanist—a memorandum of the flora of the Eastern and Middle States of the neighbouring Republic. Much of this list will be found useful also in Canada.

POPULAR PHYSICS. By J. Dorman Steele, Ph.D. 380 pp., \$1.75. New York and Chicago: A. S. Barnes and Co.

The present work is a new and greatly improved edition of a well known text book in a series of natural science manuals styled the "Fourteen Weeks Course." The form in which it is cast and its abundant illustrations fit it admirably as a practical work for the class-room, and the present revised edition will doubtless be found acceptable to both students and teachers of physics. The facts and theories advanced are those currently accepted, while the classifications recognized in the best scientific works on the subject have been retained. The chapters on Electricity, Heat Acoustic and Optics, have been thoroughly revised, and additional matter added of much value. The work has also been enriched by notes of an illustrated character bearing on a wide range of simple experiments within reach of the pupil.

THE STORY OF THE GOTHS, from the Earliest Times to the End of the Gothic Dominion in Spain. By Henry Bradley. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The interesting question, to those, young and old alike, who are not very well read in history, "Who were the Goths?" will be found answered in the pleasantly written volume before us. It forms one of the series, "The Story of the Nations," which the publishers, with commendable zeal, have been issuing of late. The author opens his narrative with an account of the early notices of the Goths and their national characteristics, derived from Pliny, Tacitus and other Roman writers. He then follows the Goths in their emigration southward from the Baltic to the Danube, and recites the story of the first conflict of the tribe with the Romans and the subsequent intrusion into Greece and Asia, with the frightful marauding and spoliation of cities which marked the overrunning of the Grecian empire by the barbarian hordes of the north. The later story of events at Constantinople, of the various kingdoms acquired by the Visigoths, of the conquest of Italy by the Ostrogoths, and of the final merging and vanishing of both branches of the Gothic family in the Spanish nation, are interestingly and instructively dealt with, including references to the conversion of the Goths, some account of Moorish ascendancy in Spain, and a brief disquisition on the little that is known of the Gothic language.

REBECCA THE WITCH, and other Tales, in Metre. By David Skaats Foster. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1888.

The writer's poetical facility seems to have occasioned the throwing of these domestic tales and other incidents into verse. The work has no slight merit as verse, many of the tales are marked by pathos and by a grace and tenderness of feeling, which win on the reader the more he dips into the volume. The opening poem, which gives the title to the book, is a romance founded on an incident of the days of witch-burning in New England. In plot and execution the poem is worthy of preservation. Some of the minor poems are sweet and tender, while others bespeak a playful imagination and a quaint humour.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A Biography for Young People. By Noah Brooks. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1888.

The lives of Presidents of the United States, as a rule, can have little interest for Canadian readers. An exception, however, must be made in the case of Abraham Lincoln, whose career as a self-made man, "from the log cabin to the White House," as our neighbours are fond of depicting it, appeals to the ambition of youth. The author presents his story graphically, and appears to write with a full personal knowledge of the man and his work, and with enthusiasm for the country during its sharp struggle for national existence.

TROPICAL AFRICA. By Henry Drummond, LL.D., F.R.S.E. New York: Scribner and Welford. Toronto: Williamson and Co. 1888.

Professor Drummond, whose notable work, entitled "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," will be remembered by readers of the literature on the reconciliation between science and religion, is the author of this work. His present field is an entirely new one, and seems to have been undertaken partly in connection with the Scotch Livingstonia Mission, and partly with the author's desire to make a rambling holiday tour in Equatorial Africa. This much we glean from the narrative, and a more delightful hour or two could hardly be spent over a book of travel than invites the reader in the work before us. The author wields a light, graceful pen, and he has much of the enthusiasm for exploration which marked his countryman Livingstone's career, and much of the same traveller's fervid interest in the work of heathen evangelization. The region of Africa traversed by the writer is that first opened up by the great Scottish missionary, the tract from the mouth of the Zambesi to the head of Lake Nyassa. The latter is reached by the Shiré river, a northern affluent of the Zambesi; and for missionary, as well as for colonization purposes, the region is perhaps the most interesting in Central Africa. The writer is an observant traveller, and besides being well equipped for his task, possesses the rare qualification of being a fascinating and entertaining writer. Very pathetic is the account given by the author of his visit to the mission station at Livingstonia on Lake Nyassa, with the row of trim white cottages, and the other row near by of trim grass-green graves, all that met the travellers' eye of the mission station and the fever-stricken missionaries who had passed to their reward. Many things are interestingly touched upon by Professor Drummond in connection with the resources of the heart of Africa, and with the future occupation by white men of the vast lake region of the continent. Particularly valuable is the chapter on "The Heart Disease of Africa, Its Pathology and Cure," in which the writer deals with the slave trade and with the political and diplomatic problems in the way of its suppression. Interesting in a scientific way, also, are the chapters on the Geology of Equatorial Africa, on the White Ant and the Ways of African Insects, on Mimicry and on the Geography of the region; while the "Political Warning," with which the work closes, is full of wise counsel and practical suggestiveness. A number of excellent maps, complete the service the author has agreeably rendered in the further elucidation of the problem of African colonization by the white races.

CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. By Simon Sterne, of the New York Bar. Fourth Revised Edition. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Williamson and Co.

At this late day there is no need to commend Mr. Sterne's excellent manual of the Constitution of the United States, which is not only well known to politicians and students of constitutional history, but is held in high esteem by both. The new edition