

Jas. Stormonth, the lexicon, in the opinion of the writer, *par excellence*, of the language, is the compilation of the compound and other derived words and phrases, grouped under the parent word, throughout the lexicon. This feature is happily enlarged in the present edition, though it falls far short of Stormonth's work in the characteristic we have pointed out. To make our meaning intelligible, we will cite a few words from the present and earlier editions of Chambers' book and also from the new one of Stormonth's. To take the inflected and compound words under the word 'break,' for example, we have in both editions of Chambers' the following: breakage, breaker, break-fast, and breakwater. The additions to these in the new issue are the following: break cover, break down, break ground, break the ice, break a lance, break upon the wheel, break with, breaking in, and breakneck. The additional fulness of Stormonth's book will be seen at a glance, by our adding the derivatives supplied in the latter, in excess of those already quoted. These are some of them: breaking, broke, broken, to break up, to break forth, to break in, to break from, to break upon, to break through, to break off, to break loose, to break out, a break-up, to break the heart, break of day, and breakfasting—all of which are fully defined and the hyphen, where necessary, properly supplied. The matter of supplying the hyphen is, we notice, carelessly attended to in the new 'Chambers'; and to proof-readers, and accurate writers for the press, this grave omission will greatly detract from the value which they would otherwise place upon the work. The following which we alight upon at random, will illustrate this: by-law, by-name, and by-word, though appearing in former editions as we here give them, are all in the new book shorn of the hyphen. In the case of other words, the present edition is an improvement; gunboat, for instance, which in previous issues appears with the hyphen, is now correctly given without it. Under the word 'sea,' however, there is evidence of the same carelessness we have referred to, the following being written incorrectly without the hyphen,—a departure from the mode adopted in the older editions: sea-mark, sea-piece, sea-horse, sea-room, sea-salt, sea-shore, and sea-sick. That it is not intended to do

away with the hyphen entirely, its proper introduction into the words sea-anemone, sea-going, sea-level, and sea-serpent, attests. With like carelessness we have watercourse, watermark, water-mill, watershed, waterwheel and water-work—all without the hyphen, though, *with it*, we have water-carriage, water-colour, water-level, water-logged, water-parting, and water-power. We have also the introduction of the hyphen in the word 'wellbeing' where usage now leaves it out. Notwithstanding these errors the new edition of Chambers' is a most serviceable and in many respects admirable handbook of reference, which we have much pleasure in heartily recommending.

*The Burgomaster's Wife.* By GEORG EBERS. From the German by MARY J. SAFFORD. New York: William S. Gottsberger. Toronto: N. Ure & Co., 1882.

Georg Ebers is one of the best of the more recent German writers of fiction. Both in style, plot, and dialogue his novels are a decided improvement on any we have seen by his countrymen. Herr Ebers resides at Leipzig, the oldest centre of the German book-trade, but his mother was a Hollandaise, which partly accounts for his choice of the most glorious episode in the History of Holland, in this very charming historical tale, as also for a certain Dutch minuteness of description in which Herr Ebers reminds us of Charles Dickens. 'The Burgomaster's Wife' tells the story of the Siege of Leyden, which was to the Dutch War of Independence what the Siege of Derry was to the English Revolution of 1688. We are introduced to a series of interesting and vividly described pictures of family life in Leyden, in the early times before it was circled by the Spanish armies; and to the efforts of the heroic defenders of religious and civil liberty against the time-serving among their own countrymen. Then the siege with its many stirring episodes, the famine and the apparent hopelessness of aid from the patriots, the famous 'Beggars' of Holland. In the darkest hour succour comes, and the tale ends happily. It is carefully worked up in the historic and social details, and may be relied upon as a pleasant means of acquiring knowledge of one of the in-