

Contemporary Thought.

A *Gymnastic Manual* of the exercises practised by the junior class in Amherst College, has been prepared under the direction of Dr. Edward Hitchcock.

The *Dictionary of English History* announced by Cassell & Company, will be ready in a few days. It is edited by Sidney J. Low, B.A., and F. E. Pulling, M.A., and will be issued in one large octavo volume of 1,120 pages.

THE last issue of *The Nation* contains a three-column critique of Alexander Dumas' (the son) new play, *Denise*, which was lately acted in Paris. The play preserves the unity of place throughout, the whole four acts requiring only one scene—an ordinary drawing-room.

BIOGRAPHIES of the new type probably, as we may call them, are still the rage. There are soon to appear: Books and Pamphlets by the Dunlap Society on American actors; a biography of the late Thomas F. Appleton; the *Life and Work* of Bishop Gobat, of Jerusalem; *Autobiographical Memoirs* by the late Mark Pattison; *Memoirs* of the Rev. David Brainerd, missionary to the Indians; and so on.

NEW 'ologies are springing up—to say daily would scarcely be a hyperbole. The latest is microbiology. Germany has a chair devoted to it, and now France has followed the example. Neither do we think it is any too soon done. We only wonder some such thing was not thought of years ago, when Lister with his antiseptic method laid such stress on the germ theory of divorce.

"If the present generation does not know as much about the personal appearance, habits of thought and ways of living of the authors of recently past generations, as it does of its contemporaries," says the *Critic*, "it will not be for want of entertaining memories, biographies, and volumes of reminiscence, in which these matters are set forth."

It is interesting to know that whereas, formerly, men went to the universities only to prepare for the professions, now, many business men, merchants and manufacturers, and even well-to-do farmers and tradesmen, are giving their boys the advantage of the higher education, although destining them to follow their own pursuits.—*The Overland Monthly*.

MR. GLADSTONE has recently written a letter to G. W. Smalley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, in which he gives his estimate of Washington. He says: "If, among all the pedestals supplied by history for public characters of extraordinary ability and purity, I saw one higher than all the rest, and if I were required at a moment's notice to name the fittest occupant for it, I think my choice at any time during the last forty-five years would have lighted, and it would now light, upon Washington."

PROFESSOR TYNDALL, in a lecture recently, speaking of Pasteur's experiments and the good results that have followed from vivisection, was led to say, that never in the history of medicine had a brighter day dawned than the present. Those at all acquainted with the wonderfully rapid progress this science has of late years been making, will heartily agree with him. The empiricism which characterized the medical profession within the memory of our grandfathers, is giving way to the new light which

accurate researches have thrown upon the science.

SPEAKING of the lack of moral training which is the inevitable result of the extension of technical education, the *St. James' Gazette* says:—"If any large manufacturer were asked his experience, we believe he would tell us that no workman is a less reliable member of society than he who, idle and truant at school, has been early drafted into the workshops, and acquires there a manual dexterity, which teaches him to earn wages more quickly and easily, but to spend them, from want of any other training, more recklessly than do his fellow. But this type is just what the technical school, if it assumes too large proportions, will certainly produce."

SCHOLARSHIP is in fact already one of the professions, and its votaries, who were once near the literary, are now nearer the scientific class. As a consequence, learning, which was once truly, like poetry, a part of culture, is passing over to that division where it becomes, like the study of the law of medicine, merely an item of civilization. * * * * It is not that the humanities have lost their humanizing power, but that they are inculcated as sciences. Culture must always be literary, but the classics, in consequence of the change in the ideal of scholarship, have become philology, antiquities, and cognate branches of research.—*The Culture of the Old School, Atlantic Monthly, January, 1885.*

THERE is a smack of Matthew Arnold in the sentiments of the following sentences from the *New York School Journal*:—

"When will our religious papers learn that there is but one kind of education—and that is education? This statement may seem to many a truism, but it is not. Education is the equal development of all the powers of a human being. An abnormal growth is not education. It is the want of it. We sometimes hear it said, 'What a pity his education has been neglected!' This may often be true, but it is never true that a man has a false education. A so-called discipline may have warped and twisted the whole nature out of the line of rectitude, but it was not education that did it."

SOME interesting educational topic is always discussed at the meetings of the Boston Schoolmasters Club. "The new education" was the question debated at the last meeting. The general conclusion seemed to be that it was well to make haste slowly in educational reforms. Mr. E. C. Carrigan of the State Board of Education, in the course of some well-put remarks, referred to two bills now before the Massachusetts State Legislature, one relating to the tenure of office of teachers, and the other to the abolishment of corporal punishment in public schools. He believed most heartily in the former but not in the latter. The teacher should have both tenure and the reserve power behind the throne. He did not believe in the injudicious use of the rod, yet there were cases where the rod alone was the best cure. For these cases the teacher should be vested with the right of proper correction. The Legislature recently had done much for education which was new, but which should have been long since old.—*New York Tribune.*

"LITTLE by little, the higher education of women has gained ground; bit by bit, they have got a place in the life of Oxford. It is almost the single direction in which the enthusiasm of reform has not been blunted by

satiety. Last year they were admitted to university examinations. Now they have been admitted to certain college lectures, and the principle of mixed classes has been conceded. It is true that the leaders of the party of reform were careful to explain that they had nothing to say to the principle of mixed classes; that all they desired was that women should not be debarred from obtaining the best teaching that could be had. A feeble and disunited opposition suggested certain provisos, limitations, restrictions, which the party of progress accepted cheerily, and with their tongue (if one may say so) in their cheek. It is easy to miscalculate the effects of a hitherto unknown force; but if the college system survives this new shock, it will have given another proof of its extraordinary and invincible vitality."—*T. W. Mackail, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, in the Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE following has been going the round of the press:—

ENGLISH HISTORY IN RHYME.

First William the Norman,
Then William, his son;
Henry, Stephen, and Henry,
Then Richard and John,
Next Henry the Third,
Edwards, one, two, and three:
And again, after Richard,
Three Henrys we see.
Two Edwards, third Richard,
If rightly I guess;
Two Henrys, sixth Edward,
Queen Mary, Queen Bess;
Then Jamie, the Scotsman,
Then Charles, whom they slew,
Yet received, after Cromwell,
Another Charles, too.
Next Jamie the Second
Ascended the throne;
Then Good William and Mary
Together came on;
Then Anne, Georges four,
And fourth William all passed,
And Victoria came—
May she long be the last.

IT might be well if the faculty of Harvard University, instead of turning its attention to the "brutal, demoralizing and dangerous" sport of football, should turn its paternal slipper to the chastisement of several of the undergraduates. For several nights past an occasional cannon cracker or mine has been exploded in the college yard, doing little damage except causing a momentary suspension in the closing studies of the examinations. Not content with this harmless amusement, however, the guilty ones have followed more closely the tactics of their friends, the dynamiteurs. A large cannon cracker was recently tied up to the knob of a student's door and exploded with great force and a deafening noise, charring the door and scattering the burning wadding around the entry. The noise called out the inmates of the entry, and the burning material was quickly extinguished. But the dynamiteurs were not discouraged. Yesterday, as a student was putting some coal upon his fire, he was very much startled to hear an explosion, and to find the burning coals scattered about his room. An examination as to the cause of this sudden activity on the part of his fire revealed the fact that some reckless person had scattered gunpowder in the coal bin, and that this powder, when thrown into the fire with the coal, had produced the explosion.—*Boston Herald.*