

strong, however; and I kept up the search for snakeberries, so that, once found, I might know them and avoid them. I must even acknowledge some feeling of disappointment, long after school days were past, when I discovered that there was no mention of them in books.

And now for the moral of all this. It is not a reference to these bitter fruits of experience we might happily miss by an ethical heed to the warning, "They might be snakeberries," but only a simple lesson in the practical value of ignorance.

Not all delusions are harmful. The fungus you know to be edible is a mushroom; the one you don't know, a toadstool; and toadstools are poisonous. This is the only safe rule; and, since there are poisonous fruits in our forests and fields, until he knew each and every one of them, I would hesitate, for prudential reasons, about telling any inquiring boy that there is no such thing as a snakeberry.

J. V.

For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

Misquotations.

As Browning is quoted, saying:

"The little more, and how much it is,
The little less, and what worlds away."

Mr. Cameron, in the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, has given some striking examples of misquotations, and has suggested the publication of some more. When these come before teachers they are very striking, in the clear sight they give of the difference between the right way and the wrong way, or even between what might seem to us good, if we had not the better than good, as written by Shakespeare or by Milton.

I misquote from these two, following misquoters:

- (a) "In the affliction of these dreams to live." (Macbeth).
- (b) "Can'st thou not minister to a diseased mind." (Ib).
- (c) "And teach them how to fight." (Henry V).
- (d) "A dreadful battle rendered you in music." (Ib).
- (e) "These silly old fools." (Hamlet).
- (f) "Giving a dim religious light." (Il Penseroso).
- (g) "To-morrow to fresh fields and pastures new." (Lycidas).
- (h) "Proudly struts his dames before." L'Allegro).
- (i) "Of lengthened sweetness long drawn out." (Ib).
- (j) "He also serves who only stands and waits."

As Mr. Cameron says, how a change may ruin a line. So to compare Scott's misquotation of Wordsworth's imaginative exactness:

"The swans on sweet St. Mary's lake
Float double, swan and shadow."

As poor Wordsworth complained, the image of the one swan and the utter loneliness of the mountain-surrounded lake were just the things he cared to tell of; and then the perfect calm, and so the double floating. The misquotation often shows the mind is not on the object.

And then the sound. What a difference when the "sw" is not repeated.

"The swan on still St. Mary's lake."

To go back to our list. One finds many hints as to the power in words of the best chosen and the best placed: "Proper words in proper places," which is, I think, near Swift's definition of what is good in style.

In (a) the real line ends with "terrible dreams," and the thought of which made Lady Macbeth shudder as her husband told of his own affliction. So Helen Faucit played it.

(b) Transpose "diseased" and "mind," on the latter of which is, of course, the stress.

(c) Henry V.'s shout, "Teach them how to war."

(d) "A fearful battle rendered you in music."

(e) "These tedious old fools," Hamlet says after suffering from Polonius.

There is as much difference between the vague "silly" here and "tedious" as between the "sweet" lake and the "still."

(f) "Casting a dim religious light" from the stained glass windows.

The same might be said here—the mind on and off the object.

(g) "To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures new."

Milton expressing his various hopes for his life's work.

(h) "Stoutly struts his dames before."

Another more exact picture.

(i) "Of linked sweetness."

The misquoter thought not at all of Milton the musician. But doubtless he can see how commonplace is his "lengthened long."

W. F. P. S.

For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

"Scotsman."

A post card received the other day asks:—"Sir William Alexander, a Scottish knight (or Scotch) which? A young Scotsman (or Scotchman) named Alexander Mackenzie, which?"

You had better say 'Scottish,' and you must not say 'Scotchman' unless you wish to be classed by all true Scotsmen among those who drop their h's, or who say "I seen him when he done it," or who dine in their shirt-sleeves and eat peas with a knife.

Sometimes when people are told this they refuse to accept the truth with becoming docility and fall to arguing about it. They say they know natives of Scotland who call themselves Scotchmen, and they have found "Scotch" and "Scotchman" in Burns and Scott and other Scottish writers. One might answer these objections in the wise words of the famous oracle of