

who are unacquainted with Carlyle's writings, the work will serve a purpose, but we trust that that purpose will not stop short of inciting the reader to gain such a knowledge of Carlyle, "his books and his theories," as he must not look for in the brief compass of this little volume, and from a compiler who cannot be said to be heartily in sympathy with his author.

WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY.

New edition, 1928 pages, 3000 engravings, 4to, sheep. Springfield, Mass. : G. & C. Merriam, 1880.

The most intense "Britisher," to use a *cis-Atlantic* term, and the greatest stickler for the supremacy of English achievement in the realm of literature, must admit that in the compilation and construction of Lexicons of the English language, English effort has been immeasurably distanced by American industry and enterprise. This acknowledgment, at the outset, must be unreservedly and ungrudgingly made. Of course, in admitting so much, it is not to be supposed that English philology is thereby discredited, or that English scholarship and letters do not really hold the high place claimed for them. Both English philology and English scholarship stand to-day, as in the past, in a pre-eminent position among peoples speaking the English tongue. Lexicography in England, moreover, has a history and a record of achievement and progress of which Englishmen need never be ashamed. To-day, the Lexicography of England, for the masses, at any rate, is the marvel of the world. In extent, accuracy, usefulness, and cheapness, English lexicons of the language cannot be surpassed. In Collins', Chambers', Nuttall's, and the other school and popular English dictionaries of the day, the English public are better and more cheaply supplied than are our neighbours across the line; while at a price surprisingly low, considering its merits and the many admirable features of the work, the English journalist and student of the language has in Stormonth's Dictionary a lexicon which may well serve the purpose of the more ambitious works of the American press.

When we have said all this, however, we fear that we have nearly exhausted our good words in behalf of English lexicographic publishing. It is true that there are greater enterprises in English lexicography than those we have mentioned. There are the works of Richardson, Todd, Ogilvie, Walker, Johnson, and Latham, and the auxiliary productions of Wedgwood, Trench, the new work of Skeat's, and the various dictionaries of the professions,—law, medicine, and theology; but these are all either specialties or works that require others to supplement them to be of adequate service to the scholar or to the professional student of the language. And just here comes in the contrast of the position of the Englishman with that of his kinsman on this side of the Atlantic. He has no "Webster;" no book of an all-satisfying requirement, no one reference work in which he will find all that he may be in quest of, no single quarry that will yield him every ore his demands require the inspection of—such as he may find in the mammoth "Unabridged Webster." As a publishing enterprise, having regard to its uses, its thoroughness, its compactness, and its price, it is an amazing product of literary skill and mechanical workmanship. The new edition lays the consulator of its pages under a greater debt of obligation than even the previous ones, for we find it enriched by a supplement containing nearly 5,000 additional words, with pronunciation, derivation, and definition, and the addition of a new biographical department comprising nearly 10,000 names of men prominent in every field of labour, both living and dead. Closely scrutinizing the supplement, we find it a most valuable addition to the work, embracing, besides old words with new meanings, new words which have come into the language as recent coinages, or that have become familiar in popular science, and are now incorporated from professional and technical lexicons. The range of pictorial definition has also been largely extended in the new issue, and now includes some 3,000 wood-cuts and drawings which illustrate the words in the body of the Dictionary, and are further made good use of, in classified