

BOOK NOTICES.

THE ARENA for June is the opening number of its sixteenth volume, and makes its appearance in a new dress of type and with every evidence of editorial earnestness in the declaration: "It is our determination to make this volume eclipse all previous volumes in ability and vigor, no less than in the conscience element, which, one correspondent observes, 'makes the *Arena* unique among the great and original reviews and magazines, in a wilderness of literature characterized by no special progressive idea, conviction, courage, or virility.'" The frontispiece of the number is a very fine portrait of the poet Whittier, of whom the editor gives a lengthy sketch entitled "A Prophet of Freedom," beginning with a quotation from the poet:

"O Freedom! if to me belong
Nor mighty Milton's gift divine,
Nor Marvell's wit and graceful song,
Still, with a love as deep and strong
As theirs, I lay, like them, my best gifts on thy shrine!"

Among the important articles that fill the number, the first, "Celsus, the First Pagan Critic of Christianity, and his Anticipation of Modern Thought," is a very clever and scholarly production by the Rev. Samuel J. Barrows, D.D., who fully recognizes the validity of criticisms which less cultured men affect to belittle, but which have been unanswerably put forward against the superstitions of the vulgar by thoughtful men in every civilized age. We hope to be able to reproduce the article next month, but every thinker should read it. The rest of the contents cover a wide range of subjects, and several are finely illustrated. (176 pages, 25c., \$3 per ann. Published by the *Arena* Publ'g Co., Copley Sq., Boston.)

The Lamp, the organ of the Toronto Theosophists, is a neatly-printed periodical, issued at the modest rate of 25c. per year. The May number contains the announcement that "H. P. B. has called out the reserves." We thought poor Blavatsky had ceased from labour.

The Philosophical Journal has removed its chief office from Chicago to San Diego. In an editorial note we read: "This move was, we are told, pre-arranged many years ago in the Spirit World, and is now carried out by direction of the intelligences there, without the approval of the editor and publisher." After a description of the severance of business and social ties at the celestial orders, and an appeal for support from the Pacific Coast Spiritualists, the editor says that "Angels and mortals are watching the result of this proposition"—to obtain 1,000 new subscribers in order "to show our willingness to co-operate with our angel-friends in this effort to bring about a glorious manifestation of Spirit-power and millennial glory."

The Metaphysical Magazine for May opens with an article, "The Three Kinds of Karma," by Charles Johnston, M.R.A.S., who has spent many years in the East, during which he became thoroughly conversant with the classics of the ancient Sanscrit and Pali languages, thus acquiring a knowledge of Eastern philosophy from original sources. The present article is the first of a series which will no doubt be a valuable contribution to Oriental studies.

The Cleveland Medical Gazette for May has a very able article on "Person Identification," chiefly of a legal character, by H. Remington, Attorney-at-law.

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