

THE STUDY OF THE MIDDLE AGES, by Dr. Ephraim Emerton, Professor of History in Harvard University, and published by Messrs. Ginn & Co., Boston. The historical period, which often goes under the name of the Dark Ages, has not received much attention as a school study. Gibbon's gloomy view of these times is the view most in acceptance; and Dr. Emerton, who is not at one with Gibbon, has undertaken in the present volume to point out that however sad a period of decay may be, there are evidences in it of agencies which tend to produce a new and fairer civilization. The book, we have no doubt, will become very popular with the young readers of history into whose hands it may fall. The style is very pleasant.

VIRGIL'S BUCOLICS, abridged from Conington's Edition by the Rev. Dr. Sheppard, late Head-Master of Kidderminster Grammar School, and published by Messrs. Deighton, Bell & Co., Cambridge, England. This is an excellent edition, which will tend to make the study of the shorter poems of Virgil more and more popular with our boys. It was undertaken under the superintendence of Professor Conington, the distinguished translator of Virgil, though the painstaking editor did not live to see his little book in print.

BENCH WORK IN WOOD, a Course of Study and Practice designed for the use of Schools and Colleges, by W. T. M. Goss, of Purdue University, Indiana, and published by Messrs. Ginn & Co., Boston. This is a book which the votaries of Manual Training will certainly favour. The author is a teacher of experience, and places his explanations before his students in language not to be misunderstood. Any boy would do well to procure a copy of this work, whether he is in attendance at a Manual Training School or not.

THE ELEMENTS OF CHEMISTRY, a Text-Book for Beginners, by Ira Remsen, Professor of Chemistry in the Johns Hopkins University, and published by Macmillan & Co. The plan of this book is the plan on which all such text-books ought to be arranged, the facts, the methods by which these facts are learned, the theories which such facts establish. This with the rank of the author is all the recommendation the book requires. We have heard of the Professor of Chemistry, who rushed into the chemical formulae even in his inaugural lecture, and thus gave his students a distaste for chemistry which lasted during the whole of the session. Even in school this is sometimes done, a method which it is needless to say, Professor Remsen condemns in unmeasured terms, and by his own work shows how it is to be obviated.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED and to be reviewed next month:—Webb's *Definitions of Euclid*, Bell & Sons, London; Paley's edition of Euripides' *Suppliants*, Hartley's *Quantitative Analysis*.