

Just now there is a demand for better culture in public speaking; and voice culture is much discussed. There is greater need for better public expression, the ability to present an idea with clearness, attractiveness and force. The best culture for this is the continuous effort to put an idea clearly, in the homes, on the street, and everywhere.

The novel monger, if one may be allowed to coin an uncouth word, has his fling at the Sunday school teacher, whose stock answer to her own impossible question is, "It means, children, that we must be good, that we must always be *very* good!" Doubtless in the small army of young people who take up the word, there are some who propound silly questions, and answer them accordingly, but these are by no means characteristic of the class. One does fear that, in the multiplicity of ready-made questions and answers, there will be a lack of originality. It is so easy to appear profound at another's expense.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

Boy, Marie Corelli's new book, is in a style distinctively different from what we have learned to expect from this writer. It is, as it purports to be, only a sketch, for it has absolutely no plot. Boy is the son of a drunken father, who prides himself on being a "gentleman," and fancies that his ability to use a vast amount of bad language proves him to be one. The mother is even worse, for she is a sloven, and "only washed herself under protest, as a sort of concession to the civilization of the day." From such parents one would not expect a sensitive, lively-strung child to be born, but Boy was all that, and a child with a beautiful disposition. The sketch shows how inevitable was his deterioration, but in the end let us see a little glimpse of the Boy of earlier days. In a way, it is hard, to make out why such a book should be written. It is such a universally acknowledged fact that children brought up by worthless parents rarely turn out well, that to write a book on the subject seems unnecessary. When there is so much unhappiness in the world, we like to find something bright and hopeful in the books we read. Boy is, however, interesting, and especially so just now, because the hero dies fighting for his Queen in the Transvaal. W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto.

Table Talk, for August, contains many good things. First of all, there are the menus for August, with hints as to the preparation of the different meals. This department is always an exceedingly helpful one to housekeepers, as is that which is called "Housekeepers' Inquiries." An article on Mosquitoes is timely and readable. Transvaal Delicacies, Wedding Anniversaries and the Profession of Housekeeping, are discussed, as well as other interesting topics. Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

#### THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE MACCABEAN AND ROMAN PERIODS.\*

In connection with the history of the Jews two points have been much emphasised of late. First, that the Old Testament is not a history according to our modern idea of history, but a collection of materials out of which a history arranged on scientific principles may be made; and, second, that the part of the story which is not told in the old Testament and which links the old Testament times on to the new Testament times, is also of great importance: of importance to those who would understand how the life of ancient Israel passes into that of modern Judaism, and how the political and religious conditions were created that our Lord had to face in carrying out his great mission. The volume now before us deals with a space extending over 250 years and covers the two periods, the Maccabean in the fullest sense, and the Roman to the destruction of Jerusalem, and the fall of the Jewish state. It may seem a large period to compress into a small, compact volume; but under the prescribed limitations the author has done his work well, and his book will serve as a useful introduction to the history and literature of these periods. For those who wish to pursue this interesting subject more in detail he has appended a list of the best books. The volume is well supplied with index, maps and table; and is a good specimen of a serviceable text-book.

There is every evidence that the writer has studied the best literature and reviewed the subject in the light of the most modern research. As he says in the preface: "From the fact, however, that a large part of the story belongs to inter-testamental times its interest has often been overshadowed by that of the strictly biblical story. Now the earnest historical study of the life and times of Jesus has brought us to a clear realization of the vital importance of an understanding of the whole development of post-exilic Judaism. Whatever may be the comparative worth of these periods they are certainly not surpassed in the annals of history in pathetic suffering and indomitable heroism. The brave struggle of a nation for the maintenance of its convictions is always of the deepest interest." We have much pleasure in commending the story of these struggles, briefly and clearly told in this volume, to the attention of the theological student, and the intelligent general reader.

#### ST. MARGARET'S COLLEGE, TORONTO.

This residential collegiate school for girls has been a phenomenal success. Every succeeding year sees additions made to the buildings, and the strengthening of its always efficient staff of teachers. The aim is to "occupy intermediate ground between the contemporary elementary schools on the one hand and the universities on the other, and in its management an earnest effort will

\*The history of the Jewish people during the Maccabean and Roman Periods (including New Testament Times) by J. J. Riggs. D. D. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1900, \$1.25.

be made to combine thorough intellectual culture with the best home training and religious influences. Each department of the Collegiate course is in charge of a University-trained specialist, who employs the best methods of instruction known to modern teachers."

The Academical, Musical, Art and Physical Culture departments are each in charge of thoroughly competent instructors; while "The study of the Old and New Testament forms part of the work of all the Forms of the School, and the same systematic preparation is expected for Bible lessons that is demanded for other studies. The students attend the churches that their parents or guardians designate; and they are always accompanied to church by one of the resident governesses of the School, and careful arrangements are made for the fulfilment of all church duties that their parents demand." Four scholarships, of the value of \$80 each, in classics, modern languages, mathematics, and science, respectively, are being offered to such as attend the classes of St. Margaret's College during the session 1900 and 1901. These subjects are such as may well command the attention of any young woman of the present day. Every pupil cannot be expected to go in for a science course but for those who do, it is satisfactory to learn that the science laboratory in this college is well equipped with apparatus suited to teaching and experimenting in chemistry and physics. In addition to object-lessons in natural science, we observe that Mr. Dickson gives lectures on botany and plant life—very necessary subjects in an agricultural country such as Canada.

St. Margaret's has been exceedingly fortunate in its lady Principal. Mrs. George Dickson makes an ideal head of such an institution; while on the Board of Management will be found the well known names of Rev. Dr. Milligan, Toronto, A. T. Wood, M.P., Hamilton, George Dickson, M.A., late Principal of Upper Canada College, Toronto, J. K. Macdonald, Toronto, and Dr. Courtney, Ottawa.

It will be remembered that some time before his death the late Duke of Argyll by deed of gift conveyed to the Church of Scotland the famous ancient buildings in Iona to be held by her as a Presbyterian possession for all time. We learn on high authority an interesting fact—not hitherto published so far as we are aware. The Duke was offered a very large sum by the Roman Catholics for the whole island of Iona, but he declined to sell. As he was a comparatively poor man, his action in freely conveying the sacred buildings to a Protestant body, notwithstanding a tempting pecuniary offer from the church of Rome is all the more to be esteemed.

Translate the scene of Scripture into your lives, and expound the Word of God by your works. Interpret it by your feet, and teach it by your fingers. That is let your workings and your walkings be Scripture exposition, as living epistles read and known of all men.—United Presbyterian.