

## Book Notices.

CHAUCER, SPENSER, SIDNEY. By Gertrude H. Ely. E. L. Kellogg & Co.

With a desire to bring the lives of great English writers into the hands of boys and girls, Mrs. Ely has written this little volume. It is simple, unpretentious, and, in spite of inaccuracies (e.g., the "Flower and the Leaf" is still attributed to Chaucer, p. 25), will do good service to interesting children in authors who, as a rule, are to them but mere names.

MOLIÈRE, LE MALADE IMAGINAIRE. Edited by G. E. Fasnacht. Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.

This volume adds Molière's well-known play to the number of excellent school editions of foreign classics. The editor prefixes a brief life of the author and some critical comments, and adds a body of notes, which show not only the editor's acquaintance with the modern study of Molière, but his excellent faculty for translating French idiom into the corresponding English idiom—together a commendable little edition.

SOUVESTRE, LE CHEVRIER DE LORRAINE AND LE SERF. Edited by H. E. Berthon. Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.

Souvestre has been an especial favorite in texts for school use. The two little tales are useful additions to the publishers' Primary Series of French Readings. The one interweaves the story of Joan of Arc with the narrative of how a goatherd of Lorraine is restored to his rights as lord of Varennes. The latter depicts, with historical accuracy, the life of a serf during the latter half of the fifteenth century. Both are fully and carefully annotated, forming excellent little volumes for junior classes.

MACMILLAN'S NEW LITERARY READERS. Books I., II., and VI. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

Inquiries are often made by teachers for books of supplementary reading, suitable for pupils of various grades. In the series of which the above-named samples are before us will be found selections well suited for this purpose. Book I. contains short lessons, narrative and descriptive, in prose and verse, well graded as to difficulty, and about suited to a Second-Book class. Book II. is of a similar type, but more difficult, and so suited to a more advanced class; while Book VI., which is, we presume, the highest in the series, is made up of carefully-chosen selections from the works of some of the best English and American writers, all selected with a view to interest and instruct, as well as to help forward, pupils in the more advanced forms. The books are neatly bound in red. The type is of good size and beautifully clear.

THE FRENCH VERB NEWLY TREATED. By A. Esclançon. New York: Macmillan & Co.; Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.

A small quarto of over two hundred pages is a convincing proof that there is something to learn about the French verb. To require such space to develop "an easy, uniform, and synthetic method of its conjugation" seems somewhat of a contradiction. When we find that the object of the method is merely to devise an easier mode of learning the verbs we are apt to rebel. We could learn it tolerably well of old in fifty pages; why now in two hundred? The author proceeds first, as is customary with all late grammar, by making clear the relations

of the "primitive" tenses to the "derivative" tenses; then classifies the verbs as regular (—er and inchoatives in—ir) and irregular (first, those with variable stem in primitive tenses and invariable stem in derivative tenses, e.g., *craindre*; second, those having a variable stem in both primitive and derived tenses, e.g., *boire*). There is a great deal of unnecessary padding in the verb-lists—for example, the list of verbs having a circumflex accent, first conjugation (p. 74); but on the other hand the complete lists of verbs in—eler, —eter, of those taking *être* and *avoir*, etc., of those used in the infinitive only, etc., make the work valuable for teachers' reference. The entire absence of historical background in the treatment of the conjugations makes the work useful only to the practical teacher of language, not to the scholar.

OLD MAN SAVARIN, AND OTHER STORIES. By Edward William Thomson. Toronto: William Briggs, Wesley Buildings.

The energetic and enterprising firm represented by Dr. Briggs has rendered a distinct service to literature, especially to Canadian literature, by the publication, in a charmingly neat and attractive volume, of this collection of short stories by a clever Canadian. Some of the stories first appeared in *The Youth's Companion*, *Harper's Weekly*, and other newspapers. Others, so far as we are aware, are now given to the public for the first time. The author, who was born, we think, in the Ottawa Valley, has many friends in Toronto, where he was for several years on the editorial staff of the *Globe*, and in other parts of Ontario. The sketches vary considerably in quality, but all are much above the average of short stories, and several are exceptionally good, both in conception and in style. Indeed, some of the best authorities in the newspapers of the United States do not hesitate to say that some of them are equal to anything which has been written by Barrie or Kipling. This is high praise, but we believe that the discriminating reader will not deem it extravagant. For our own part, we are not a little proud to know that such productions are from the pen of a native Canadian and an old friend. Humor of a high order pervades them all, but it is always directed and chastened by good taste, and, as in the case of Barrie and a few other writers of the first-class, adds both charm and intensity to the deepest pathos. Many of the scenes are laid in Quebec, with the French *habitant*, with whose characters, conditions, and habits the writer is thoroughly familiar, and are instructive as well as intensely interesting.

The book is, as we have intimated, very tastefully printed and bound, and is fitted to adorn the table or shelf in any home. We hope that it may have such a sale as will disprove the common assertion that Canadian readers do not know how to appreciate Canadian authors.

## Literary Notes.

The *Forum* for September contains three articles of special interest to educators. The first is by John Gilmer Speed, entitled "Higher Pay and a Better Training for Teachers," two most desirable ends. In the second, President Charles F. Thwing, of Western Reserve University, discusses "Well-Meant but Futile Endowments." The third is by Mr. Richard Burton, who, under the title "The Renaissance in English," discusses a tendency among our best writers toward the use of native words and idioms, which he considers to be a most encouraging proof of the race's health and solidarity.

The September number of the *Political Science Quarterly*, edited by the University Faculty of Political Science of Columbia College, has the following table of contents:

"The Gold Standard of Currency in the Light of Recent Theory," by Prof. J. B. Clark; "Ideal of the American Commonwealth," by Prof. J. W. Burgess; "The History of Pennsylvania's First Constitution," by Mr. Paul L. Ford; "The True Significance of the 'Tennis Court Oath,'" by Prof. J. H. Robinson; "The Study of Statistics," by Prof. Mayo Smith; "Relations of Labor and Politics in England," by Prof. James Mavor; "Notices of Recent Literature" includes some forty titles.

Boston, New York, and Chicago: Ginn & Company.

Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Company, of Boston, New York, and Chicago, announce for immediate publication two new numbers of their Riverside Literature Series: No. 83, George Eliot's "Silas Marner" (double number, paper, 30 cents; linen, 40 cents), and No. 84, Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast" (quadruple number, paper, 50 cents; linen, 60 cents). "Silas Marner" is one of the books required for admission to American colleges for the years 1896 and 1897. Dana's masterpiece, which grows in popularity as the years go on, is here published in a most attractive form, with a supplementary chapter by the author. Each book is made more interesting by a biographical sketch of its author especially prepared for this edition. These books will be welcome additions to this series, in which have been published in attractive and inexpensive form—for school and library use—the best masterpieces of the greatest American and English authors.

The October *Atlantic Monthly* is rich in good fiction. Mrs. Ward's powerful serial, "A Singular Life," is concluded. There is a further instalment of Gilbert Parker's "Seats of the Mighty," which increases in interest with each succeeding issue. Further chapters of Charles Egbert Craddock's "Mystery of Witch-Face Mountain" also appear. One of the most striking contributions is another Japanese study by Lafcadio Hearn, entitled "The Genius of Japanese Civilization." The third of Mr. Peabody's papers, "An Architect's Vacation," tells of "The Venetian Day." Among other features is a paper by Susan Coolidge on "The

Countess Potocka," and an unusually readable paper of travel by Alvan F. Sanborn, entitled "The Wordsworth Country on Two Shillings a Day." The book reviews, which constitute so important a part of every issue of the *Atlantic*, treat of a group of six stories much read and discussed at present. The poems are by John B. Tabb and Michael Field. The latter contributes "Second Thoughts," which, with "Tiger-Lilies," in the September issue, are the first poems of this popular English writer to be printed in an American publication. The usual departments complete the issue.

The complete novel in the October issue of Lippincott's, "My Strange Patient," contains some adventures that are by no means commonplace. The author, William T. Nichols, though hitherto little known, has a story to tell, and knows how to tell it in a way to catch the reader's interest in his first paragraph, and hold it unflinchingly to the end. The other tales of this number are "The Train for Tarrow's," by Virginia Woodward Cloud, and "Carroll's Cows," by E.L.C. Fred. Perry Powers discusses "Ethics and Economics," and shows that the world's business must of necessity be conducted on business principles, and that considerations of philanthropy and sentiment, while of value in their proper place, are secondary, not primary. Theodore Stanton supplies some facts concerning "French Roads." Marion Manville Pope writes of "The Highways of the World," and John Paul Bocock describes Van Gestel's explorations "Inside New Guinea." Elizabeth S. Perkin's tells the brief tale of "The King of Rome," otherwise the Duke of Reichstadt, Napoleon's son. The distance between expectation and fulfilment has seldom been greater than in the life of this unlucky princeling. A question vital to housekeepers, that of "Domestic Service," is discussed by Mary C. Hungerford. Minnie J. Conrad points out "How They Differ"—i.e., men and women.

The poetry of the number is by Edith M. Thomas, Martha T. Tyler, and Clinton Scollard.

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