

## LITERARY NOTES.

"Facts about Peat." By T. H. Leavitt. \$1. Lee & Shepard, publishers, Boston, Mass.

The author built peat works years ago at Lexington, Mass., and wrote a treatise on the subject, of which the present book of 115 pages is a revised edition. He tells what peat is, where it is found, and describes some of the processes of manufacture, including his own. In this connection he refers to the experiments made in Canada, and speaks highly of the methods adopted by A. Dobson at Beaverton, as described in *The Canadian Engineer* of February last, in which article, by the way, an injustice was done the author in stating that his work had been abandoned. He calls attention to the enormous deposits of peat in Canada and the States, and looks forward to the time when it will be one of the chief fuels for steam and domestic purposes. The other uses of peat, such as a material for paper, for textiles, for fertilizing and as an antiseptic and disinfectant are also touched upon.

"The Metric Fallacy." By Frederick A. Halsey and Samuel S. Dale, 200 pp.; 8vo., cloth; illustrated; \$1. Published by D. Van Nostrand Co., New York.

The authors oppose the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures in the United States, and claim that its adoption would necessitate the abandonment of present mechanical standards. They point to the persistence of old units in metric countries, such as France, Germany, Spain, Turkey, etc., as evidence of the failure to make the system effective in the countries which have adopted it officially.

"Steam Carriages and Traction Engines." By Wm. Fletcher, M. Inst., Mech. E. Illustrated; 428 pp.; 8vo.; 15s. net. Published by Longmans, Green & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, London, Eng.

Mr. Fletcher, who is the author of two previous works on traction engines and steam locomotives on common roads, and of two treatises on the steam jacket, gives in this volume an account, historical and mechanical, of the various types of steam carriages and traction engines in use in Great Britain and the United States. The mechanical features of most of these are dealt with and explained in 250 illustrations, and the future of steam road carriages and load-hauling by steam is indicated as very promising. It is the most comprehensive work on the subject that has come to our notice.

"Reinforced Concrete Construction." By L. J. Mensch, C.E. 217 pp.; illustrated; \$2. Published by the Cement and Engineering News, Chicago.

The object of this work is to give in simple language the applications of reinforced concrete to structural work. By means of diagrams, half-tone illustrations and tables, much information is given on the possibilities of economical construction by this method of combining steel and iron with concrete. As the subject is not well understood by many engineers, architects and contractors, because of the fragmentary character of literature dealing with it, the present work will be very helpful. It gives examples of steel concrete applied to bridges, culverts, sewers, dams, docks, factory and other buildings, tanks, girders, columns, etc.

"Oil Engines." By W. A. Tookey. 138 pp.; illustrated; one shilling, net. Published by Merritt & Hatcher, Limited, Grocers' Hall Court, London, E.C., Eng.

A compact and convenient hand book on the construction and operation of oil engines with hints on how to purchase, erect and run them, with notes on the character of oils used. A short description is given of the principal types of oil engines in use in Great Britain. The author is also the compiler of a useful hand book on gas engines issued at the same price and by the same publishers.

Other publications received are:

Report of speeches in the House of Lords on the bill for the introduction of the Metric System, with copy of petition in support of the measure. Published by the Decimal Association, Botolph House, Eastcheap, London.

A pamphlet on the Metric System at 25 cents, published by Gottman & Leroy, 2265 St. Catherine St., Montreal.

*L'Electricité dans les Mines en Europe.* By Emile Guarini. Price 5 francs. Published by Ramlot Freres et Soeurs, Rue Gretry, Brussels, Belgium. A pamphlet of 46 pages with illustrations on the applications of electricity to mining in Great Britain and European countries. Also by the same author at one franc "*L'Electricité en Agriculture.*"

Index to the Technical Press, giving the titles, and an indication of the contents of articles in the engineering press of the world. Published monthly at 10s. 6d. per year, at 11 Queen Victoria St., London, Eng.

Report of address, "Build up Canada," by Sir Sandford Fleming before the Canadian Club, Toronto. 15 pp. and map. A plea for the construction of a new transcontinental railway opening up the more northerly territory of Canada.

American Railway and Maintenance of Way Association, 1562 Monadnock Block, Chicago. Bulletin No. 48, reports of committee on wooden bridges and trestles, on ties, on roadway, and on yards and terminals, with recommendations and discussions; also Bulletin 49 on reduction of gradients and elimination of curvature on Union Pacific Railway, by J. B. Berry, chief engineer.

Year Book of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for 1904, containing constitution, by-laws and list of members. F. R. Hutton, secretary, No. 12 West 31st St., New York. Next convention in Chicago, May 31st to June 3rd.

"Gold Deposits of New Zealand." By Alexander McKay, F.G.S., Government Geologist. An estimation of the relative quantities of reef and alluvial gold, reprinted from *New Zealand Mines Record* and published at Wellington, N.Z., by the Colonial Government.

In a pamphlet of 74 pages, Charles Baillairge, C.E., Quebec gives a very instructive summary of the various papers, pamphlets, and articles he has written on engineering and cognate subjects since 1866. There are over one hundred entries, and the summary here given is a measure of Mr. Baillairge's tireless energy, no less than a revelation of his intelligent study of a wide range of topics not always limited to the work of the engineer. Price 50 cents per copy.

The publishers of "Knowledge," 326 High Holborn, London, issue a diary and handbook which is very valuable for amateur astronomers and students in science. The edition for 1904 contains, besides a monthly astronomical ephemeris, and charts of the paths of the planets for the year, twelve star maps showing the night sky of each month of the year, many miscellaneous notes and tables, and the chief celestial phenomena of the year. There are special articles on the camera, as applied to science in the region of astronomy, microscopy and natural history; on the uses of microscopes and telescopes; on practical meteorology and other subjects. There are 340 pages, 6 by 9-in., ruled for the users' notes, with index and special headings. Price 3s., net. The publishers of "Knowledge" have added a second title to their excellent monthly which is now called "Knowledge and Illustrated Scientific News," expressive of the more general scope which the paper now takes, while still maintaining its special fields of astronomy, natural history, botany, etc.

The *Marine Review*, of Cleveland, issued last month is an elaborate "fitting out" number. Besides the news of the spring movements, it was devoted to a discussion of the shipping question in all its various phases. The list of contributors embraced the Hon. Geo. B. Cortelyou, secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor; Senator Wm. P. Frye, of the United States Senate; John McNeil, president of the Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders of America, and Winthrop L. Martin, author of "The History of the American Merchant Marine," and many others. Detailed drawings are published of a new dipper dredge for the Canadian Government. The number is splendidly illustrated throughout with more than ninety beautiful photographs.



The Robb Engineering Company has received an order from J. G. White & Co., of London, England, for a 300-h.p. Robb-Armstrong tandem compound engine to be a duplicate of two engines supplied by them for the Perth Tramways, Western Australia, five years ago.