

RECENT BOOKS.

PITMAN'S MANUAL OF PHONOGRAPHY. Designed for class or self-instruction. Board. Pages 114. Isaac Pitman & Sons, London and New York. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto.

This valuable little manual of Phonography should find a place in every school, where some bright scholars will see it and give their leisure moments to learning an art which will prove useful to them in after life. Dr. A. H. MacKay, in referring to the value of phonography, speaks of the importance of encouraging only one system; "and as the Isaac Pitman system seems to have the fullest promise and potency of becoming universal, it is the system to be encouraged in the public schools of Nova Scotia."

STEP BY STEP. A Primer. By S. C. Peabody, Principal of Primary School, Waltham, Mass. Cloth. 98 pages. Illustrated partly in color. Ginn & Co., Boston.

The aim of this primer, with its simple stories, is to make natural, intelligent, and fluent readers of little children. The careful grading and frequent reviews make advancement easy and rapid. The suggestive phonic work and expression lessons are important parts of the book, and add a pleasing variety to the work. There are, in addition, pages of easy drawing in outline, which furnish abundant seat work. The illustrations, many of them in color, give the book a charm that appeals very strongly to the children.

THE HEROES, OR GREEK FAIRY TALES. By Charles Kingsley. Cloth. Pages 278. Price 1s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., London.

This book, with illustrations by the author, and notes and aids to the pronunciation of Greek names, contains the stories of Perseus, The Argonauts and Theseus. It is written by the well known author in a style to captivate children, and well deserves a place in every book collection to which children have access.

APPLIED MECHANICS FOR BEGINNERS. By J. Duncan, Head Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Technical Institute, West Ham, England. Cloth. Pages 324. Price 2s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., London.

The object of this book is to provide students of engineering and allied constructive arts with a practical statement of the principles of mechanics essential to an intelligent interest in their occupations. A constant connection is kept up throughout the work between theory and practice, and sufficient explanation of difficulties is given to ensure a mastery of principles by the diligent and careful student.

DRAMATIZATION OF LONGFELLOW'S HIAWATHA. By Florence Holbrook. Paper. Pages 55. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

This arrangement of the song of Hiawatha has been prepared with special reference to its presentation by school children, and it has already been given in many schools. The dramatization of such a well-known story cannot fail to be of interest to young people, and present better ideals than the plays usually prepared for them.

We have received from the publishers a new book containing plans and specifications, with perspective and sectional views, for twenty-five houses of various sizes, from two rooms up. This handy, compact and very useful volume contains, in addition to the foregoing, valuable information relative to building, such as the number of shingles required in a roof, amount of plaster for a house, quantity of material required for building a house, and many other facts of permanent and practical value. A copy of the book will be mailed, post-paid, by the publishers, Geo. W. Ogilvie & Co., 166 to 174 South Clinton street, Chicago, Ill., upon receipt of twenty-five cents in postage stamps.

OCTOBER MAGAZINES.

Frank Foxcroft opens the October *Atlantic* with A Study of Local Option, a discussion of the management of liquor-selling. Several happy literary papers embellish the number. Henry D. Sedgwick, Jr., discusses the character and writings of Montaigne and his influence on subsequent ages; Harriet Waters Preston treats of George Meredith as A Knightly Pen; Edith B. Brown writes of The Moral Hesitations of the Novelist. . . . The October magazine number of *The Outlook* in its hundred pages of reading matter contains in actual amount and in illustration as much as many of the regular monthly magazines; while it is to be remembered that *The Outlook* publishes under one subscription rate fifty-two numbers a year, twelve of which are illustrated magazine numbers. . . . *The Century* for October has for its frontispiece the full-length portrait of Andrew Carnegie, recently painted by John W. Alexander, and Mr. Carnegie is the subject of an appreciation by Hamilton W. Mabie. . . . In the *Century's* "Year of American Humor," there are two diverting stories, On the Links, a tale of love and golf, by George Hibbard, and John Henry's Lobster Trust, by Walter Leon Sawyer, both illustrated, and an article by Catherine A. Chandler, on The Sense of Humor in Children, with specifications. . . . The October *St. Nicholas* presents Slushy the Roustabout, by Howard E. Ames, as the long story. It is the fascinating record of a real boy who served in the United States Navy. In this same number appear a couple of capital articles on home amusements, and an unusually long list of good stories and pictures. . . . The October *Delineator* offers many valuable suggestions to women who would like employment at home, and notes several instances in which a competence has been acquired by women who have followed such unusual lines of work as marking linen, sewing on skirt braids, making plum pudding, Saratoga chips, paper dolls, favors for weddings, etc. . . . In the October *Canadian Magazine* Mr. Colquhoun maps out a possible course of winter reading for those who desire to know more of Canadian literature and history, introducing the subject with some well conceived suggestions. "The Canadian reader is in danger of forgetting two things: that in recent times a literature of undoubted merit has grown up in his own country, and that common sense suggests his knowing Canada through her own writers. This is the home, by birth or adoption, of us all. The ideas, poetry, history and polity of Canada must possess for us a primary concern."