

square inch as would be equal to the weight of water and glass supported per square inch. But if the glass plate should be kept inclined for some time so as to allow all the water possible to drain away without admitting any more air, then an equilibrium of upward and downward pressure on the glass results. The surface (capillary) attraction between the glass plate and the water and the rim of the tumbler, assists the upward pressure of the air (the same occurs in the case of the paper), and therefore determines the stability of the plate when the upward and downward pressures are about equal."

Other questions received will be answered in the next number.

#### BOOK REVIEWS.

**HAND-BOOK OF VOLAPUK**, by Charles E. Sprague, member of the Academy of Volapuk, President of the Institute of Accounts. \$1.00. There have been many attempts at the formation of an international language, and such attempts are even yet being made. But in the struggle for existence, they have all disappeared except Johann Martin Schleyer's scheme. We believe, and so do the most of English philologists, so far as they have indicated their opinions, that English with a simplified orthography, might nearly as conveniently be adopted by other nations as the International language, while it has the advantage of already being the most extensively spoken language in the world. We have no sympathy, however, with those who ignorantly say Volapuk is no language. It is the best language in existence, and has the greatest potentiality involved in its principles. It fails only in one essential point, and that is, that it is not at present the spoken language of a dominant race or civilization. But it has done already what no other language has been able to accomplish. In five or six years from the date of its creation, it has been studied by over 200,000 individuals, and has a bibliography of ninety-six books in thirteen different languages, and can boast of no less than eleven periodicals. The English roots of the language we also find to be nearly equal to the roots from all other languages put together, namely forty per cent.

We have examined a number of Volapuk text-books for English people, and have no hesitation in saying that while Mr. Sprague's is the latest, it is also the most systematically and simply arranged. It has a graduated series of exercises with a key at the end of the book, which will enable a person who has studied no language except English, to master the subject without difficulty. It also contains appended a vocabulary which admits of a considerably extended range of Volapuk composition. As an exercise on comparative philology and the principles of language structure, the subject is interesting and worthy of attention. The grammar is so simple and symmetrical, that most of our readers, especially those who have studied the ancient classics, can master it at one reading. All that remains is to use the forms in connection with thought until they become associated with their meaning, then pick up the vocabulary and talk or write in Volapuk. We presume the work can

be had from the author, 1271 Broadway, New York, or from the publishers, "The Office Company, New York; Trubner & Co., London, England, or S. R. Winchell & Co., Chicago.

AN ELEMENTARY CLASS-BOOK of the geography and history of the Turk's and Caicos Islands, for the use of schools, by J. Henry Pusey, late theological student of Calabar College, Kingston. *Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row, E. C., 1887.* The writer of this book is a negro, the Baptist missionary of the place. Hugh H. Hutchings, Esq., of Turk's Island, West Indies, an old Pictovian, has our thanks for the same.

**MEIKLEJOHN'S GRAMMAR.**—In the November issue of the REVIEW, reference was made to the admirable work on the English grammar and language by Prof. Meiklejohn of St. Andrew's University, Scotland. We are glad to learn that the American publishers of this work—Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co., of Boston—are about to bring out a re-print of the grammar in a separate form, with the addition of sixty-four pages of exercises and examination papers. This abridgment will prove a great convenience to those who wish the grammar and composition in a separate volume. What we have before said of the scope and value of this work, especially the complete volume, need not be repeated here. It is a course in English which teachers and students will find so admirably adapted to their needs, that it is safe to say the English language has been invested with a new and greater interest by the work of this distinguished English scholar.

SIXTY remaining copies out of 500 of that great work, "*The Survey of Western Palestine*," in seven quarto volumes, are offered for sale at *twenty guineas each*, by Alexander P. Watt, 2 Paternoster Square, London, E. C.

**COMMERCIAL LAW** published by Williams & Rogers, Rochester, N. Y., U. S. A, from specimen pages which we have seen, appears to be a very complete and valuable work. Price \$2.00. To schools \$1.00. For introduction 75 cents.

#### GOSSIP WITH EXCHANGES.

The *Illustrated London News* (American edition published at New York) is not only noted for its admirable illustrations of men and events, but its literary matter, especially its notes and reviews, are terse and excellent. In its issue of Dec. 31st, the "notes of the week" are flavored with a wit and raciness that are charming. Let us appropriate a *multum in parvo* scrap from a running comment on the "art of conversation," which the writer discusses so charmingly: "To apply on the instant the treasure of the mind, with wit, to the passing topic is, indeed, the very perfection of the 'art of conversation.'"...The *Popular Science Monthly* (published by the Appletons, New York,) for January discusses "Governmental Interference with Production and Distribution," "Evolution and Religious Thought," "Race and Language," "Climate and the Lake Region," and other timely and valuable topics. Just as we close the volume, after a delightful hour spent on its pages, the following quotation in its "Miscellany" arrests attention: "Teaching and learning have been reduced to a mathematical system