

best books on the teaching of composition that we have yet seen. Young teachers who may come across this book will be fortunate, and there are many who have weekly classes in this subject who will be glad to use this book as an aid in their work.

Heath's Modern Language Series :

Contes de Fées. Edited by Prof. Edward S. Joynes, of South Carolina College. 35c. (Boston : D. C. Heath & Co.) Classic fairy tales possess an inexhaustible charm, and the publishers of an excellent series of modern language texts have included selections from the well known French "Contes de Fées" as one of the series. The notes and vocabulary (including a table of irregular verbs) add much to the practical value of the little book.

Plane Geometry. By G. Irving Hopkins. 75 cents. (Boston : D. C. Heath & Co.) This new Geometry is indeed a complete contrast to the old text-books on the subject. It is on the Heuristic plan; demonstrations are sometimes in part and sometimes wholly expected from the pupil, who is also to construct his own diagrams, and state the converse of the theorems he is about to prove, etc. The division into books has been abandoned. We question if, after all, better mathematicians will be trained by this method. It has yet to be proved.

Macmillan's History Readers. Standard IV. (London and New York : Macmillan & Co.) Stories and biographies from English history conveniently arranged as reading lessons, appear under the above title. The period covered is from 1066 to 1485. Illustrations are given, which, with one or two exceptions, are excellent, and the general plan of the work has much to recommend it.

(1) *English Grammar for Beginners.*

(2) *English Grammar for the Common School.*

(3) *Grammar of the English Sentence and Introduction to Composition.* 40c., 60c., 85c. By Prof. Jonathan Rigdon. (Danville, Ind. : The Indiana Publishing Co.) The publishers consider that these are the "very latest, most improved, best books," and we observe (on consulting the publisher's circu-

lar) that a number of teachers, professors and superintendents agree with them. After examining the books, we can unhesitatingly say that they have many good features, and that the sentences and selections given for illustration and exercises are of more than ordinary value. Sometimes the explanations are rather long, but, on the whole, these works contain a good and complete presentation of the subject and are carefully adapted for use in schools.

Pharaohs, Fellahs, and Explorers. By Amelia B. Edwards. (New York : Harper & Brothers.) \$4.00. "It may be said of some very old places, as of some very old books, that they are destined to be forever new. The nearer we approach them, the more remote they seem; the more we study them, the more we have yet to learn. Time augments rather than diminishes their everlasting novelty, and to our descendants of a thousand years hence it may safely be predicted that they will be even more fascinating than to ourselves." These are the opening sentences of Dr. Amelia B. Edwards' latest book on Egypt, containing, with large additions, notes and references, and with illustrations, the substance of her lectures on "Ancient Egyptian Subjects," delivered in the United States. The work is comprised in eight chapters, devoted respectively to "The Explorer in Egypt," "The Buried Cities of Ancient Egypt," "Portrait-Painting in Ancient Egypt," "The Origin of Portrait Sculpture and the History of the Ka," "Egypt the Birthplace of Greek Decorative Art," "The Literature and Religion of Ancient Egypt," "The Hieroglyphic Writing of the Ancient Egyptians," and "Queen Hatasu, and Her Expedition to the Land of Pun."

The distinguished and learned authoress is one of the few who can make the past live again, can be scientific and yet simple and charming, and can stimulate and satisfy intellectual activity—in the form of a real interest in things and people long long passed away. Good use is made of the work and discoveries of others and widely-differing materials are arranged and utilized in a skilful manner. Altogether the book is one whose fortunate buyer as he becomes better acquainted with its contents will fulfil the words of Scripture: "When he goeth his way, then he boasteth." There is a beautiful photograph and autograph of Dr. Edwards as a frontispiece, and the volume has an exceedingly handsome appearance.