

Goldsmith can hardly but be a pleasure and delight. The critical work, in both instances, is creditable to Canadian scholarship and industry.

*Swinton's New Language Lessons: An Elementary Grammar and Composition.* Toronto: James Campbell & Son.—As an introductory work on the construction of our mother tongue we have met with nothing superior to this book. It is not only easy and progressive in its plan, but, mechanically, the book is most attractive and inviting—a great matter with a generally repulsive subject. For use in elementary classes in grammar and composition we esteem it specially well-suited. It is not over-loaded. The definitions are brief and pointed, and the exercises excellently illustrate the rules. There has hitherto been no greater desideratum than a simple and rational text-book on English Grammar; and if the language is to be spoken and written correctly, and with intelligence as to its form and structure, we know of no manual that will better help pupil and teacher alike in mastering the difficulties that surround the study of the subject than the present improved edition of Swinton's Language Lessons, issued by the above firm.

*Steel's Fourteen Weeks in Physics.* New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.—The subject of Physics is in this work treated popularly, after the manner of Peck's Ganot. The teacher in search of matter to interest a class, will here find abundant and good material. The illustrations are a great aid to the text, and highly increase the attractions of the work.

#### LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND ART JOTTINGS.

SCIENCE has oft-times its most earnest votaries in the humblest walks of life. Mr. Smiles has recently given us a memoir of an enthusiastic naturalist in Thomas Edwards, the shoemaker of Banff, a work which has gone into its fifteenth thousand in England, and earned for the subject of the biography a

pension of £50 from the English Civil List. Now we have from the same source, a life of Robert Dick, a baker of Thurso, an humble and unobtrusive geologist and botanist. Scotland has evidently determined that her race of Hugh Millers shall not yet die. It would be curious to trace how much these humble disciples of Science owe the inspiration of their work to the plodding industry and enthusiasm of the author of "The Old Red Sandstone," and "My Schools and Schoolmasters."

THERE is much entertaining and instructive reading in the serial volumes which the end of the year brings to hand. The new volume of "The Leisure Hour" (London: Religious Tract Society; Toronto: John Young,) has interesting papers, in addition to a vast variety of excellent reading matter, on the following subjects, viz., "Utopias; or Schemes of Social Improvement," a resumé of socialistic movements and theories, from More's Utopia down to Karl Marx and the *International*; a series of illustrated papers, on The Public Schools of England; "The Chemistry of the Heavenly Bodies"; and a group of essays on "Practical Social Science."

A COLLECTED volume of "Lectures on Education," delivered before the members of the College of Preceptors, London, in the year 1871, and published by order of the Council, has lately been issued. The title of their subjects will doubtless interest our readers: The Science and Art of Education; The Teaching of the English Language; of the Classics; of Arithmetic; of Physical Science; and of Chemistry. The volume is published at 3s. sterling.

THE fifth sessional address of the President (Mr. Serjeant Cox) of the Psychological Society of Great Britain has just been issued from the offices of the society, in pamphlet form. The subject for this year was "The Claims of Psychology to admission into the Circle of the Sciences."

THE Hibbert lectures delivered last spring by Prof. Max Muller in the Chapter House, Westminster Abbey, are announced for publication in an octavo volume of 400 pages. Their subject, it will be remembered, was