

of English, but to writers and men of business. The first of the two gives a pretty full list of synonyms and words of similar meaning, but the most attractive part of the book is naturally the Appendix. Most of the explanations of foreign phrases are well enough done, through "the resistance of inanimate matter" is hardly adequate as an explanation of "*vis inertię*." The utility of this part would have been increased by examples of the use of each phrase, such as are given of the prepositions. But this might have made the book unwieldy. The use of the various prepositions is well illustrated by passages from classical writers, among whom we are glad to see that Matthew Arnold now finds a place. But it is not quite easy to see upon what principles some uses under this head are rejected, while others are allowed to pass. Some of the usages admitted are decidedly antique now, though they were not in the writers from which they are quoted.

The second volume will be a fair guide, as far as it goes, to pronunciation in the United States. We do not pronounce *pianist* and *physiognomy* as the book directs. Two pronunciations are allowed of the usual word *azure* (*ă-zhur* and *azh'-ur*), and also of *vase* (*vās* and *vāz*). In the latter case we should certainly pronounce the word differently, *i.e.*, either "*vawz*" or "*vāz*." There are many omissions: such words as *t'ait* and *niche* might well have been added to the list. Under *cucumber* we read "*ku-kum-ber, not kow'-kum-ber*." There is another manner of pronouncing this word which is not noticed at all. On turning to two words that are often confused, *precedence* and *precedent* (the noun), the correct pronunciations are given, *viz.*: "*pre-séd'-ence, not prés-e-dence*," and "*prés-e-dent, not pre-sé-dent*." If this little book leads to greater care in pronunciation, it will have done good work. R. W. B.

THE YOUNG NIMRODS IN NORTH AMERICA. A book for boys. By THOS. W. KNOX. (Harper & Bros., New York.)

WHO WAS PAUL GRAYSON. By John Habberton. (Harper & Bros.)
(For sale at Dawson Bros.)

These are a couple of volumes got up by Messrs. Harper in their usual capital style, and eminently fitted for gift books or school prizes. "Paul Grayson" is a story of a schoolboy, and when we have said this, our readers will understand what they