

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

AN INTRODUCTION TO GREEK VERSE COMPOSITION, with Exercises. By Arthur Sidgwick, M.A., and F. D. Morice, M.A. London : Rivingtons, 1883.

THE name alone of Mr. Arthur Sidgwick is a sure indication of more than ordinary merit, and we are glad to find his reputation as author and teacher well sustained in his "Introduction to Greek Verse Composition." The arrangement of the subjects is admirably conceived, and the various topics are accurately and clearly discussed. Some of the rules are presented in an original form, *e.g.*, those relating to Monosyllables and the Final Cretic; and in nearly every instance there is a decided gain by the change. Under "Laws of Quantity" we notice some useful additions to the usual rules for the different varieties of elision, in the shape of rules for its use and avoidance based on the versification of Sophocles. The part devoted to "Poetic Forms and Usages" contains a more valuable and complete collection than we remember to have seen in any similar work: the method of arranging makes them at once clear to understand and accessible for reference. The matter under this head alone would render the book invaluable to the student. Even the vocabulary at the end commands our respect, and we are not apt to bestow respect on vocabularies in general: this one, however, does not attempt or profess to supplant the *Greek-English* Lexicon, but gives a useful, if brief, list of the chief synonyms. The exercises and selections are carefully chosen, beginning with the very simplest lessons in the metrical arrangement of words: but, as is usual in such manuals, the progress is very rapid, and rather adapted to the requirements of a student already possessing an extensive acquaintance with the Greek language than of the mere school-boy. To masters, and those who can supplement the material presented, the book will be of great value, for to such it is full of suggestive help, proceeding, as it does, from the definition of an Iambus to selections from Browning and

Tennyson. We extend a hearty welcome to the latest contribution to educational literature of so genial and kindly a master, and so polished a scholar as Mr. Arthur Sidgwick; and we feel assured that no teacher of Greek Verse Composition can afford to dispense with its assistance.

THE ELEMENTS OF CHEMISTRY, for the use of Schools, Academies and Colleges. By Edwin J. Houston, A.M. Philadelphia: Eldridge & Brother.

IN his preface the author of this work announces that "an attempt has been made in this book to present in logical sequence the latest developments of chemical science." The work is divided into three parts, the first embracing Theoretical Chemistry, and dealing with such subjects as the Theory of Chemical Combinations, Atomicity and Quantivalence, Theory of Substitution and Crystallography, and occupying some fifty-five pages. The second part is entitled Descriptive and Experimental Chemistry, and is subdivided into sections dealing with the non-metals and the metals grouped according to their quantivalence. The third part deals with Organic Chemistry, and in regard to this division of the subject, the author claims to have simplified the treatment of it "by the adoption of a classification based on the peculiarities in the linking of the carbon nuclei."

We are disposed to think, if the work is designed as an introduction to Chemistry, and as such to be used in schools, that the young student is destined to meet with a good deal of discouragement if he reads the parts in the order named.

An excellent feature of the work we are at present considering is the syllabus, or synopsis, at the end of each lesson, in which is given a concise statement of the chief points that have been enlarged upon, and this is followed by a collection of questions for review. In this Province we are disposed to complain that our examiners in science