

Book Notices.

The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Earthworms. By CHARLES DARWIN. J. Fitzgerald, Publisher, 24 East 4th Street, New York. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, post free, 30c.

What more unpromising theme can be thought of than "the action of earthworms." But when the highest genius undertakes to study even these lowly creatures, and to describe their habits and their labours, he invests even that subject with the profoundest interest for every reader who has any openness of mind for the contemplation of nature's wonders. The titles of the several chapters show the wide range of the great naturalist's researches in this field. He treats of the habits of worms; the amount of fine earth brought up by worms; the part played by worms in the burial of ancient buildings; the denudation of land by the action of worms.

Selections from Goldsmith. Chautauqua Library; Garnet Series; 16mo, 312 pp.; Price, 75c. Boston: Chautauqua Press, 117 Franklin Street.

The Garnet Series now holds a recognized place in the Chautauqua Library. The Rand Avery Company have issued the second set of this series, comprising, among other choice readings, "Selections from Oliver Goldsmith," who is better known and loved to-day than ever before. Like many another man of genius he failed to be appreciated in his lifetime, but perhaps no writer of his day is quoted more frequently, after the lapse of a hundred years, than he. The contents of this little book are culled from his best writings. Who that reads the "Deserted Village" but feels with Gray, "That man is a poet?" His beautiful poem, "The Traveller," Johnson declared would not easily be equalled since the death of Pope. Here he depicts his own experiences during a twelve months' ramble on the continent, where his entertaining, genial nature proved his capital. Not the least interesting part of the book is the introduction, by that versatile writer, E. E. Hale, who, like the author of whom he writes, never fails to be entertaining. The other three volumes, in the second series, are Ascham and Arnold, Readings from Milton, Essays of Addison; each 75c.

WE are asked to state that Ministers, Evangelists, Sunday School Teachers, Tract Distributors, and all Christians who labour for souls, *will always*, on application by postal card, be furnished free of price and postage, with Gospel Tracts, etc. Address, A. H. Gottschall, 210 Hummel Street, Harrisburg, Pa.

THERE has been no such success in literature within the past decade as that of the story, "A Tragic Mystery," written by Julian

Hawthorne from material furnished him by the diaries of Inspector Byrnes, of New York, and published by Cassell & Company. The book has now been on the market a little less than a month and yet a fourth edition is already in the press.

The Pulpit Treasury more than maintains its well-earned reputation as a staunch, progressive, varied and timely storehouse of pulpit and evangelistic literature. It thoroughly furnishes its quota for the equipment of every Christian worker; and he who reads it cannot fail of being qualified for the presentation of the truth, and for the winning of souls. E. B. TREAT, publisher, 771 Broadway, New York.

A Unique Work on Canadian Topics.—Mr. Erastus Wiman, President of the Canadian Club, writes to the editor of this paper as follows: "It is the intention of certain members of the Canadian Club, in New York, to issue, in the form of a beautiful book, the papers which have been delivered before the Club during the past winter by prominent parties, together with those which are to be delivered during the remainder of the season. The book is to be issued in beautiful style, at \$1 per copy. A great many Canadians will doubtless desire to possess themselves of this rare compilation, and, by purchasing copies, indicate the interest which is manifested throughout Canada in the attempt of the Canadian Club to lay before Americans the resources, advantages, and attractions of their native country." Parties desirous of obtaining copies can do so by enclosing the price of the book to James Ross, Canadian Club, 12 East 29th Street, New York.

THE last words of John B. Gough were worthy of one just departing in a chariot of fire. In them he flung down the mantle which he himself had worn so long: "Young man, keep your record clean!" The message is one that should have wide repetition. The dying man's words should have a thousand echoes, repeating and re-repeating his injunction, until every young man in the land has felt its tender force and solemnity. It is worthy of being carried on a banner at the head of the hosts of young men—an inspiration to nobler living, a rallying signal to the tempted, a life battle-cry for all. Few men have understood young men so well as did John B. Gough, and still fewer have sympathized with them so much. His warning was not that of an austere, cold, over-righteous pietist, but that of a warm-hearted, clear-sighted, tender friend. Will the young men hear the admonition, to utter which the failing life-powers were rallied? If this counsel of his be effective, then, like Samson, the mighty orator will have accomplished more in his death than in his life. If this motto be kept constantly before the young, he being dead will yet speak. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thence according to thy word."—*Pilgrim Teacher*.