

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE HUMAN BODY AND ITS HEALTH.
By William Thayer Smith, M.D. Ivison
Blakeman, Taylor & Co.: New York and
Chicago.

THIS is an elementary text-book intended for use in schools. The author never loses sight of the Hygiene of his subject, and his method of tabulating important facts as he proceeds will prove a valuable help to both teachers and scholars. He supplies an appendix containing concise and useful instructions in some cases of accident. The style of the book is suited to the capacity of ordinary scholars, and its mechanical execution is all that could be desired.

PHYSIOLOGY, HYGIENE AND NARCOTICS.
By Charles K. Mills, A.M., M.D., etc.
Eldredge & Brother: Philadelphia.

THE plan and style of this work does not differ materially from that of the preceding one. Its hygienic character however appears more at the end, where we find one chapter devoted to valuable hints on "Hygiene, Accidents and Poisons," and another to the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other narcotics upon the human frame. A unique feature of the book, and one that will greatly aid in its systematic study, is the syllabus that follows each chapter, giving a summary of its contents.

COMPREHENSIVE ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE. By John C. Cutter, B.S., M.D., etc. J. B. Lippincott & Co: Philadelphia.

THE author of this work is a son of Calvin Cutter whose book on the same subject did valuable service in Ontario for many years. It is altogether of a higher character than the two preceding works, and as an elementary text-book on physiology stands in our estimation second only to Huxley's. The author shows himself master of his subject, and deals with it as only a master can. In anatomy he gives valuable directions to those who wish, by dissection, to become practically acquainted with the subject. The

latest and most reliable information is given in physiology, and when reliable information with regard to the function of any organ cannot be given, the author inspires the student with confidence in his teaching by frankly admitting the fact. In regard to hygiene he never loses an opportunity of giving valuable health hints, and his remarks on alcoholism are as much a special feature in this as in the two preceding works. The chapter at the end containing instructions how to act in "the care of sick and emergent cases," is by its excellence and copiousness quite in keeping with the other parts of the book. While the two previous works are well fitted to be put into the hands of scholars in our public schools. Mr. Cutter's book is more suited for teachers, and students in our high schools. Like the two previous ones it is copiously illustrated and carefully printed. One mistake we noticed which evidently has escaped the author's attention. It occurs in the following sentence at the top of page 101: "But now, passing from the left ventricle, and flowing through the capillaries of the system at large, it (the blood) returns to the left auricle." It should be *right* auricle.

FIRST LESSONS IN MINERALS. (No. xiii. of the Guides for Science-Teaching, Boston Society of Natural History). By Ellen H. Richards, Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co., 1884.

THIS admirable pamphlet of fifty pages is well adapted for use in the higher classes of our Public Schools and junior classes in High Schools. The first half is devoted to a brief and simple discussion of the more commonly occurring elementary bodies, both mental and non-mental, and the latter part to compounds of two and three elements. The lessons are given in nearly the same form as that found by experience in the schools of Boston to be most advantageous. It would be difficult to improve upon them. They form an excellent introduction to any of the ordinary works on Mineralogy.