

"*Tiny Tim.*" Bob Cratchit's child, who had died in Scrooge's dream. Bob Cratchit was the clerk whom the miser had treated very harshly as well as begrudging him a holiday, even on Christmas Day.

"*his nephew.*" The nephew had the day

before asked him to dinner, but had been gruffly repulsed.

"*feign it.*" Why did he wish to "feign" "his accustomed voice"?

"*strait.*" Distinguish from "straight"?

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE GERMAN UNIVERSITIES DURING THE LAST FIFTY YEARS. By Dr. J. Conrad. Authorized Translation. Price 10s. 6d. Glasgow: David Bryce & Son.

Dr. Conrad's book, which is eminently well-timed, is of great importance to those who interest themselves in university questions in general, and that of university reform in particular. It is solid and complete, and shows painstaking and thorough work.

THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA. By Miss A. W. Marston. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Price 5s.

The author of the "Children of India" and the "Children of China" has found another theme for her pen, not less important, nor in itself less attractive than earlier ones, especially in these days. Clear, simple, earnest in style, this book is a geographical, historical and missionary narrative, and calls on a rising generation to do its duty by the poor, degraded and ignorant of the earth. The author never for a moment loses sight of her audience, and asks them to do nothing which children cannot do. We may add that the book is illustrated and handsomely bound.

THE BRITISH CITIZEN: HIS RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES. By Jas. E. Thorold Rogers, M.P. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Thirty-one short chapters under such headings as: The English Towns, The Serfs and their Enfranchisement, The Earliest Parliaments, Education in Early Times, The Growth of Toleration, Colonial Eng-

land, The Press, The Right of Association for Public and Private Objects, comprise the present volume, and form a connected history, more interesting than a novel, and as useful and instructive as only a good history can be. We hope it will be generally purchased for school and other libraries, and teachers, to whom we most heartily commend it, will, we know, be much pleased with it.

THE WORLD'S LUMBER-ROOM. By Miss Selina Gaye. London: Cassell & Co.

We have not read any book for some time with which an intelligent boy or girl who likes to "know things" will be more delighted than this. Its title is some index to its character; its style is vivacious and attractive, and though it is "popular" in its scope, but few will peruse it without learning much on the subject of what Nature does with her dust and rubbish.

A LEXICON OF THE FIRST THREE BOOKS OF HOMER'S ILIAD. By Clarence E. Blake, A.M., Principal of Springfield (Mass.) Collegiate Institute. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1886.

In addition to the three books mentioned above, this Lexicon will also serve for Book XXII., and for the parts of Books IV., V., VI., XVIII. and XXIV. usually read in preparatory schools.

THE MODERN SPELLING BOOK. New York: Taintor Bros., Merrill & Co.

Carefully arranged and progressive in its character, this book attempts chiefly to supply lists of ordinary English words,