

## NOTES ON CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE FIELD OF DISEASE, A BOOK OF PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE, by BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON, M.D., LL D., F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Honorary Physician to the Royal Literary Fund. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co.; (over seven hundred pages in one octavo volume). This was a most valuable contribution to the literature of preventative medicine, well calculated to interest both professional and non-professional readers. As the author writes in his preface—"I have written this work for those members of the intelligent reading public who, without desiring to trench on the province of the physician and surgeon, or to dabble in the science and art of medical treatment of disease, wish to know the leading facts about the diseases of the human family, their causes and prevention. Any one, therefore, who opens this work with the expectation of finding in it receipts and nostrums will not have that expectation fulfilled, and will discover reference to no remedies except such as are purely preventative in character." The author treats the "Field of Disease" under such heads as the following: General Diseases Affecting Mankind; Local Diseases; Acquired Diseases, from physical agencies and from mental agencies; Origins and Causes of Diseases; and Practical Summary on Preventions of Disease. It is quite a different book from the usual works on public health or sanitary science. There is no other work in the language in which the information given in this book can be found so systematically, conveniently and intelligibly arranged and presented to the reader.

HOW TO DRAIN A HOUSE: Practical information for householders. By GEORGE E. WARING, JR., M. Inst. C.E. New York: Henry Holt & Co. Pp. 222, with twenty illustrations; price \$1.25. We have already briefly mentioned this excellent little book, but it is worthy of a more extended notice. Colonel Waring has given long and attentive study to the subject of house drainage, and as a result he has views of his own upon the subject which will be found stated in the present volume. Not that by any means the book has been written merely to promulgate the author's own views; it is rather a guide in a field of unsettled methods. The author holds that there has been unquestionably a steady improvement in recent years in dealing with the difficult problems of the disposal of household waste: each step, however imperfect in itself, being better than the condition of things which preceded it. Such, indeed, have been the progress made and the success achieved as greatly to strengthen the expectation [that an ideally perfect system of house drainage may soon become an accomplished and accepted fact. The book abounds in practical common-sense suggestions, and is certain to prove valuable to all house-constructors and house-keepers who are seeking correct information upon the subject. The preliminary remarks on house drainage and health are very impressive and decisive, and the explanation of principles and the description of plans and construction are full, clear and intelligible.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for November concludes the seventy-first volume. It is an exceptionally good number, richly illustrated. The frontispiece is a masterly engraving by BERNSTROM of "The Otter Hunt," one of Sir Edwin Landseer's most characteristic paintings. The number opens with a very interesting article by LUCY C. LILLIE, entitled "An Indian Journey." The article and its illustrations faithfully and vividly reproduce the features of a New England autumn, and at the same time are retrospectively associated with the scenes of early con-

licts with the savages. The illustrations are from drawings by Mr. and Mrs. R. SWAIN GIFFORD. A striking paper in the number is DR. WHEATLEY's article on "The New York Stock Exchange." It is a thorough exposition of a most remarkable institution, and is superbly illustrated. While the article is not a denunciatory sermon against the evils of speculation, it clearly shows that much more than one-half of the brokerage business consists of fictitious sales. MR. EDWARD HOWLAND's paper on "The Familistère at Guise, France" is a timely and important social study, based upon M. Godin's recent experiment of associating his workmen with himself in such a way that they are not only wage-earners but participants in the profits of the industry carried on by him at Guise. The HON. JOHN BIGELOW contributes "Some Recollections of Lord Houghton." Act II. of "She Stoops to Conquer" is concluded in this number, with six illustrations by E. A. ARNEY. MISS WOOLSON's "East Angels" and MR. HOWELL's "Indian Summer" are continued. There are two excellent short stories—a humorous sketch, entitled "The Singular Case of Mr. Samuel Spoolin," by F. ANSTREY (author of "Vice Versa")—especially good—illustrated by REINHART; and "The Captain of the Heather Bell," by the late HELEN HUNT JACKSON. The poems of the number are exceedingly good. MR. G. W. CURTIS opens the *Easy Chair* with an interesting study of the importance of the individual as illustrated in history; and MR. WARNER opens the *Drazer* with a humorous delineation of some old and once familiar types of American character, now rapidly disappearing. The publishers announce that the December issue will be a brilliant and attractive Christmas Number.

IN THE CENTURY for October the space commonly taken up with the War Series has been devoted to articles and illustrations relating in a timely and important way to the life and services of General Grant. There are a number of papers relating to the general, abundantly illustrated. "Riverside Park," where his body lies, and a charming place, is the subject of a paper by William A. Stiles, which is illustrated with several drawings by Alfred Parsons and Harry Penn. Other illustrated articles of the October number are Lieutenant Schwatka's second and concluding paper on his explorations in Alaska; Mrs. Lizzie W. Champney's description of "The Haunts of American Artists," profusely illustrated with pictures of country studies; and Mr. Howell's "Tuscan Cities," illustrated with numerous etchings by Pennell. A portrait by the late Samuel Boyles, the famous editor of the *Springfield Republican*, is the frontispiece of the number. His career is described by George S. Merriam, in a paper entitled "A Study of Independent Journalism." Principal Grant, of the Queen's University, Kingston, Can., writes a timely paper on "The Canada Pacific Railway." Brander Matthews contributes the short story of the number, which is called, "Love at First Sight." The subjects discussed in "Topics of the Time" are "North and South," "Prejudice and Progress," and "Civic Rivers." In "Open Letters," some of the papers are Mrs. E. S. Willard's account of life in "The Chilcat Country," Alaska, and "Police Reform" by L. E. Dudley. There are some good poems, and altogether the number is an exceedingly good one.

ST. NICHOLAS for October is the twelfth and last number of the current volume—the last course—in the feast of good things which the generous old Saint has spread before his readers during the year. And as we usually reserve for our dessert some specially savory delicacies, so in this number are