

reviewed by the leading English literary periodicals such as the *London Standard*, *Spectator*, *Academy*, *Athenaeum*, *Saturday Review*, *British Quarterly*, *London Quarterly*, *Edinburgh Review*, and many others. The *London Nonconformist* says: "It must supersede every other work in the English language on the Catacombs." It is gratifying to find that after fifteen years it is not itself superseded, and that the new edition required the alteration of only a single line. We claim only that it is a piece of honest, faithful workmanship. We never expect to have the time to do as careful work again.

Life-History of our Planet. By WILLIAM D. GUNNING. Cr. 8vo, pp. 368. New York: Worthington Co.

In this busy age the man who popularizes the teachings of recent science and presents them in succinct and intelligible style confers no small benefit upon his kind. This work Mr. Gunning has done with very great skill and success. He is master of his subject and of its literature, the results of which he presents in a fascinating manner. He discusses the genesis of the earth, its geological history, the evolution of the different species, genera and orders, the problems of the ice age, the antiquity and migrations of man, his origin, and the process and causes of the differentiation of races, and kindred topics. The writer is a thorough paced evolutionist, and from that point of view sets forth clearly the theory and the evidences in its support. The book is copiously illustrated. An ingenious diagram gives the record of the ellipticity of the earth's orbit for the last million years and predicts that for the succeeding million years. This indicates its periods of greatest refrigeration and throws much light on the successions of frigid and torrid climates. The book has more than the fascination of romance, is a fine specimen of scientific argument and is written in a vein of lofty eloquence.

Briar and Palm: A Story of Circumstance and Influence. By ANNIE S. SWAN, author of "Aldersyde," "Carlowrie," etc. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

The authoress of this volume is not unknown to the book-world, as she has already sent forth at least twenty volumes, all of which have been published by the enterprising firm of Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Her works have had an extensive sale and have been highly commended. She has also received an autograph letter, containing flattering commendation of her strongly-written "Aldersyde," from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, who expresses his high admiration of the writer's talents. "Briar and Palm," is a 12mo volume of 318 pages, beautifully printed, containing several well-executed etchings. The design of the writer is to spread sunshine wherever her book may go. The various characters are well drawn, the fearful effects of social pride are graphically set forth, the power of goodness even in a child, is vividly described. Several valuable lessons are taught, and to young people especially the volume will be very attractive. The miseries of the poor in a great city and the social problem arising herefrom are vividly portrayed.—E. B.

A School History of Canada. By W. H. WITHROW, D.D., and an *Outline History of Canadian Literature* By G. MERCER ADAM. Pp. 232. Toronto: William Briggs. Price 60 cents.

This book was prepared to give Canadian members of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle some knowledge of the history and literature of their own country. It would not become the present writer to speak of his own part of the work.

Mr. G. Mercer Adam has performed the delicate and difficult task of grouping and characterising the writers of Canada with great judiciousness and skill. Nowhere else