

MORALITY IN ITS RELATION TO THE GRACE OF REDEMPTION. By Robt. B. Fairbairn, D.D., LL.D., Warden of St. Stephen's College, Andale, N. Y. New York: Thos. Whitaker, Bible House.

The present volume embraces a series of lectures read to classes in Moral Philosophy. While there is nothing remarkable or new in the manner of presentation there is of course much truth in the main idea which the lecturer has sought to bring out and establish beyond all refutation. Dr. Fairbairn's earnest desire seems to be that a perfect understanding of the human conscience and the natural laws which govern its working shall be an important feature in the equipment of every minister of the gospel towards his mission in life. It is possible, as he asserts, and as many of us know by painful experience, Sunday after Sunday, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to preach it with all earnestness, good intent, and even eloquence; to lay stress on repentance, reformation, redemption, and yet to remain curiously and dangerously ignorant of the relation in which this redemption stands to man's inborn immorality and natural sin. A study of the innate causes of sin, a study in fact of sin itself, and a study of various systems of morality, are in Dr. Fairbairn's opinion the first and essential steps in the formation of the true pastoral and ministerial character. "The book which will give this information is yet to be written. There is a place for a *Treatise on Moral Theology*, or for an *Introduction to the Study of Moral Theology*. Such a treatise would begin somewhat as Bishop Butler began, by an enquiry into human nature, and an investigation of the separate principles of the human constitution. . . . Sermons of those properly instructed in moral theology would not give unreal and exaggerated descriptions of sins, any more than sublimated views of life which the angels only may be able to live. When a priest undertakes to instruct a Christian congregation he should have such clear conceptions of sin that he would not create uneasiness or despair, or give false hope or comfort." There is no shadow of a doubt that these remarks are true. The study of morals is less understood and more misrepresented than any other department of human knowledge. Other matters are formulated, tabulated, classified, labelled, and dated. Morals alone are left to chance, loosely described, loosely explained, held over for Sundays, and given up to inferior teachers. Dr. Fairbairn's practical book is recommended to those who look thoughtfully but not hopelessly at the sad problem of daily life to which there is at times no earthly solution.

A SHORT HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE. By Arthur Lyman Tuckerman. With Illustrations by the Author. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

In this excellent compendium much care has been given to the presentation of good examples of the different orders, plans of some of the most interesting and notable buildings erected by man, and to concise and correct definitions of architectural divisions. The book is superficial of course, but pretends to be nothing else, and so far as it goes is very good indeed. A chapter on Druidical remains might contain more than it does about Stonehenge, perhaps the most remarkable human relic the world affords, but that on Egypt encloses a lengthy and detailed account of the Pyramids. A chapter on Asiatic architecture includes the Buddhist style, the Dravidian style, or rock-cut temples of Mahavellipore, the Indo-Aryan or Northern, and the Assyrian. Probably the two most readable chapters are on the Romanesque or Norman and the Gothic styles. As an example of the latter the author adduces a plan of Rheims Cathedral, and another of a typical English cathedral. Technical terms are only sparingly used, the illustrations are good, and the whole arrangement of the work fitted to render it a very useful book of reference, although of small compass.

ELOCUTIONARY STUDIES AND NEW RECITATIONS. By Suna Randall-Diehl. New York: Edgar S. Werner.

A unique and useful compilation by a lady who has also published five or six other works on the same subject. There is not one hackneyed extract in the collection with the exception perhaps of the *Erl-King*, given both in German and in English. There is a hint of the vulgar in one or two pieces, such as the *Hen-Hussey* and the *Corpse's Husband*, while there is not sufficient justification for several trifles not so light as very, very heavy. A charming *bagatelle* is *Madame Eef*, the story of the famous apple from a French point of view. *Juliet*, by Louis Austin, is *in memoriam* of the lamented Adelaide Neilson, and makes an excellent recitation. Later writers, such as John Whitcomb Reid, John Boyle O'Reilly, Samuel Minturn Peck, and Ella Wheeler Wilcox, are largely drawn upon for the contents of Mrs. Randall's new book, which will doubtless prove very acceptable to elocutionists in general, either teachers or students. A chapter on how to study these valuable pieces precedes them, in which the art is well defined, and its canons explained with unusual skill.

A HUMBLE ROMANCE, AND OTHER STORIES. By Mary E. Wilkins. New York: Harper and Brothers.

We hear pretty often of that white unborn elephant, the great American novel, and we also hear a good deal about the difficulty of finding publishers and readers for volumes of short stories. Taking these two widely-different facts together, we question very much if the powerful New England sketches embodied in this volume will meet with the approbation they deserve. Even critics are sometimes blind, and will not discern the small beginnings which are occasionally of such grave importance. This means that in this volume of New England rural studies should be welcomed the most faithful, careful, minute, and human portraiture of certain American phases that has appeared for many years. The Americans held up to our

notice in its pages are not the Americans who live in Rome and Naples and London, not even those who lead inspired lives in Boston or vegetate out west, but the simple, ignorant, confiding, and suffering population of the hidden villages and small country towns, with their daily joys and sorrows, pains and aches, faults and foibles. The story of the two poor old women who run away from the "Home," thinking it the poorhouse, can simply not be equalled. There is the persistency of a Tourgenieff in these sketches. What the author has seen and felt, she must make others see and feel too, and so many of her studies are very similar in design. Thus we have another old woman in "A Patient Waiter," and another in "Brakes and White Violets," the latter a most touching little tale, yet so simple, so unaffectedly told, so barren of incident, that it is little more than a sketch. We hope the whole collection will be widely read and appreciated at its actual worth, which is inestimable, particularly as many of these quaint New England people and their ways are fast passing away, and can never be brought into existence again.

LIGHTS OF TWO CENTURIES. Edited by Rev. E. E. Hale. Illustrated with Fifty Portraits. New York and Chicago: S. S. Barnes and Co.

Almost every day it is our good fortune to meet with the name of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale in connection always with literary work of the highest and most enduring kind. The habit of hard work, which is a kind of genius in itself, is his if anything is, and in this compact volume of biographies extending over the last two centuries, and embracing fifty of the master minds of that period in art, literature, music, and science, we have again to thank him for the ease and graphic colouring of his portraiture, and the admirable manner with which he has managed to include everything of interest, while he is never prosy or commonplace. Among the artists is the comparatively new name of Bastien-Lepage, and also that of Antoine Barye, the sculptor, both Frenchmen, and men of the greatest genius. Among the inventors are found the Montgolfiers, Bessemer, Edison, Bell, Fulton, and Whitney. The book is really a most valuable one, and is suitable both for reference and for presentation, being handsomely bound, and containing fifty charming portraits, miniature size, but remarkably clear and correct.

WE have received also the following publications:

LIBRARY MAGAZINE. October. New York: J. B. Alden.
COSMOPOLITAN. October. New York: Schlicht and Field Company.
THE PANSY. October. Boston: D. Lothrop and Company.
FRANK LESLIE'S SUNDAY MAGAZINE. November. New York: 53-57 Park Place.
CHURCH REVIEW. October. New York: Baur and Geddes.
GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PRIMARY MONTHLY, INTERMEDIATE MONTHLY. October. Chicago and Boston: Interstate Publishing Company.
MACMILLAN'S MAGAZINE. October. London and New York: Macmillan and Company.
FORTNIGHTLY.
NINETEENTH CENTURY. October. Philadelphia: Leonard Scott Publishing Company.
LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE. November. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.
ATLANTIC MONTHLY. November. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.
QUERIES. October. Buffalo: C. W. Moulton and Company.
AMERICAN MAGAZINE. November. New York: American Magazine Company.
HARPER'S MAGAZINE. November. New York: Harper and Brothers.

BILLIARDS IN THE HOME CIRCLE.

WHAT can be suggested as suitable modes of recreation? How can we present that exercise and diversion to both mind and body which will result in recruiting them from the perplexing toils and cares of business? We answer, By directing the thoughts and the muscles into new and agreeable channels; by taking the mind from care, anxiety, and severe application, and diverting it by pleasurable exercise and excitement; by setting aside disagreeable and depressing emotions, and substituting in their place those which are cheerful and exhilarating; by giving to the dormant muscles of the limbs and of the whole body that gentle and healthful exercise which they so much require, but of which they are deprived in the ordinary avocations of city life.

One of the modes by which these desirable objects may be accomplished is to introduce into private houses a billiard table, and to present it to the entire family—men, women, and children—as a means of daily exercise and recreation. The most indolent and stupid will, by practice, soon acquire a fondness for the game; and the improvement in the salutary condition of those who habitually indulge in it will commend it in the strongest manner to the heads of families.

We know of few things more truly agreeable than a family party engaged in the game of billiards, as participants and spectators. The absorbing interest with which its progress is watched, the struggle of skill for the mastery, the exhibition of character in the methods and the styles of the players, the close calculation required in "making" shots, the movement and relative position of the balls, their diverse action under the influence of the perpendicular, the jump, the follow, the centre, and the force strokes, the new use and interpretation which it has given to words, the set phrases known only to the initiated, and which are full of mystery to the unlearned; all these features are peculiar to billiards, and give it a varied interest which, we believe, no other game possesses. We do not believe there is a man so phlegmatic for whom it has no attraction, or one who, having become acquainted with its rules, could fail to be interested in the progress of a well and skilfully played game. We have seen the most apathetic temperaments roused up to a degree of enthusiasm while watching a sharply contested match between two rival players that we hardly considered possible.