

LITERARY NOTES.

THIS is a gossip-loving world ; and though we are not much in love with biographies, or the manner in which they are compiled, the reader of the "Personal Reminiscences of Chorley, Planché, and Young," just published in Scribner's new "Bric-a-brac" Series, will find a delectable compilation for desultory summer reading. The design of the new series is to collect and condense the personal anecdote and miscellaneous *ana* appearing in current biography, and this *pot pourri* of the gossip of "music and the drama," we should say, is a happy inauguration of the series.

Mr. George Smith, the head of the Department of Oriental Antiquities in the British Museum, has returned from his second visit to the mounds of Assyria, and, it is said, brings with him as valuable and interesting a collection of inscribed tablets and miscellaneous antiquities as he formerly collected while on his mission for the London *Daily Telegraph*.

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. issue, in conjunction with the English publishers, Messrs. Macmillan & Co., London, a Canadian Edition of the £250 Prize Essay, by Prof. Murray, on "The Ballads and Songs of Scotland, in view of their influence on the Character of the People." Dr. Murray is Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in McGill College, Montreal, and late of Queen's College, Kingston ; and our Scottish readers, at any rate, will be eager to possess the work. We shall take occasion to review it in our next issue.

The two first narratives to appear of the recent Ashantee War are those of the *Times*' Special, and the New York *Herald* Correspondents. The former, by Mr. Winwood Reade, is interesting in being written by the only correspondent, either civil or military, who was fortunate enough to see all three of the most important incidents in connection with the expedition to the Gold Coast, viz. : The storming of Amoafu by the Black Watch ; the storming of Ordahsu by the Rifle Brigade ; and the taking of Coomassie by Sir Archibald Alison and Colonel McLeod. The latter is Mr. H. M. Stanley's Narrative, and will be found to be written with that vivacity and dash which characterized the story, "How I found Livingstone," from the same pen. In Mr. Stanley's book will be found a spirited defence of Captain Glover, and a hearty tribute to the part played by that officer in the campaign. Mr. Stanley's narrative is entitled "Coomassie and Magdala," and Mr. Reade's, "The Story of the Ashantee Campaign."

A new and cheaper edition of the Rev. Mr. Nas-

sau Molesworth's "History of England, from 1830 to the Resignation of the Gladstone Ministry," to be issued in three volumes, is just appearing. This work will be found a valuable addition to all libraries, as it deals with a period—from the date of the first Reform Bill—which every student of political history wants to have clearly before his mind.

Messrs. Chapman & Hall are issuing Mr. Anthony Trollope's recent and expensive work on "Australia and New Zealand," in four small volumes, at a popular price, with the idea of bringing the information they contain, in regard to these dependencies of Britain, within the reach of emigrants or those interested in the respective colonies. The plan of publication is this : Vol. 1, New Zealand ; Vol. 2, Victoria and Tasmania ; Vol. 3, New South Wales and Queensland ; and Vol. 4, South Australia and Western Australia.

Messrs. Harper Brothers have just published, in conjunction with the English House of Messrs. Sampson Low, Son & Co., an edition, in two handsome volumes, of the great work of the German explorer, Dr. Schweinfurth, on "The Heart of Africa." Nothing has hitherto appeared, not even excepting the contributions of Dr. Livingstone, which lays bare the interior of the African Continent to the eye and mind of the reader so graphically and powerfully, as do these volumes on the unexplored regions of Central Africa.

The Messrs. Cassell, of London, have commenced the publication of a new National Serial, entitled, "The National Portrait Gallery," which is to comprise authentic memoirs, and accurate portraits, in colours, of the leading men of England among statesmen, divines, authors, artists, &c., in each weekly issue. The design of the work, recognizing that the history of a country is the history of its great men, is to supply the people with a reliable and artistic "Portrait Gallery" of those who are, in any eminent degree, associated with the nation's history.

George Eliot's new volume of poems, "The Legend of Jubal," has just appeared, in a Canadian dress, from the house of Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. The collection embraces a number of lyrical and dramatic pieces, the most striking of which are *Armgart*, and the poem which gives its name to the volume. The production of these two poems alone will establish the author's claim to rank among the first of poets, as she has won the highest place in the ranks of writers of fiction.