

time. The college student will often profess to have a lively affinity for what he calls a 'soft snap.' But this is simply a conventional student dialect. *Res severa verum gaudium* is the true student motto the world over." And so it is, of some anyway, no doubt, in New Brunswick.

W. F. S.

CONVERSATIONAL METHOD IN FRENCH, for the use of colleges, academies and advanced pupils. By J. Victor Ploton. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Printing Co., 1894. To begin with, why must books published "at home" have such miserable paper? What a contrast to the cheap Macmillan books, for instance! And this book costs a dollar—more than double what such a book ought to cost. It is the old story which keeps book-buying amongst us at a minimum. This is the second part of a "method," the third and last part is in preparation. An objection to the book, as to the matter thereof, is really the violent French republicanism dragged in on all occasions—as by another French teacher of our acquaintance who violently objected to any history at all being taught before 1789. The book is altogether in French. It seems to have a great deal in it, and might be used with advantage by an intelligent teacher. It has the great merit of being written with intelligence and life. A passage of French is given, and then there is a series of questions on the passage. The matter is interesting. Also from the beginning excellent practice is given in the tenses—the use of the imperfect as "descriptive," and as "habitual" tense, and so of the past definite as "historic" tense. Then there are passages of connected conversations. All this might be of great help to those who are studying with some earnestness, whether as teacher or as taught. Then there are plans of grammatical analysis in French. And there are examples of commercial correspondence. There are extracts from classical authors. There is a long list of idioms, with exercises, and a full list of irregular verbs. In fact, as was said, there is much in a small space; and both for use and for reference, and as supplemental, if not as exclusive, the book will be found valuable.

W. F. S.

EXTRAITS CHOISIS DES ŒUVRES DE PAUL BOURGET. Edited and annotated with the author's consent by A. Van Daell. Boston, Ginn & Co., 1894. This book is not only annotated with the author's consent, but has a very interesting *Lettre autobiographique* prefixed. That alone would make the book worth buying. The writer considers such an intellectual autobiography, if simply true, a duty of an author. He discusses the effect of mixed races on their author-product; how more is lost than is gained—the loss, by uprooting in sentiments and tradition, the distributing of natural growth,—which is almost what George Eliot says, too. He reminds us, by his early reading of Shakespeare in French, how much more sensible young Germans and Frenchmen are than young Canadians, who grow up in blank ignorance, direct or indirect, of great foreign authors. He describes his free reading and says he was not corrupted thereby, but was made "old-young;" he thus reminds us of the unhealthy side of teaching young people to read books meant for their elders, which, one may say, is a reason against all unchecked literary reading, home or

foreign. He speaks of the subjective novel—his novel—as opposed to the "naturalistic," that "literature of the mysteries of iniquity," as George Sand calls it, now (having done its possible good and its probably greater harm) falling into general disrepute. And so on. But the book is not suitable for colleges, and still less for schools. Perhaps it was not meant for either. Even the story pieces, in their "Tendenz," would be beyond young readers' comprehension.

W. F. S.

There are few things more noticeable than the effort teachers are making to know more about teaching. Send postal for Teachers' Helps, a catalogue of 400 Books and Aids for Teachers, to E. L. Kellogg & Co., of New York. To any one answering this advertisement, and sending 10 cents, a Lang's "Comenius" will be sent with the catalogue.

The January Magazines.

In Gallia Rediviva in the *Atlantic Monthly* for January an interesting account is given of the development of the present school system in France. We take this extract. "Compulsory education was decreed for both sexes. Every village had to have its own schools; if too poor to build them, money would be loaned and subsidies granted by the state. Better pay was given to the teachers; normal schools were erected in every department; the school-masters were granted representation in the various educational councils, finally, education in the public schools was made wholly secular." ... There are several valuable articles in the current number of the *Popular Science Monthly*. School-room Ventilation as an Investment and School Ethics are the chief ones. In the latter this paragraph occurs: "I am informed that in a few boys' schools and in many girls' schools the head masters or mistresses are authorized, or take it upon themselves, to open letters belonging to their pupils. This is done, as I am further informed, to preserve the honor of the pupils; but to me it has always seemed like an object lesson in crime." ... With the first number in January, *Littell's Living Age* enters upon its two hundred and fourth volume. The field of periodical literature, especially in England, is continually broadening, and including more and more the work of the foremost authors in all branches of literature and science, presenting, in compact and convenient form, all that is most valuable of this work. For a magazine which gives an amount of reading matter unapproached in quantity, and unsurpassed in quality by any other periodical, the subscription price (\$8.00 a year) is cheap. The publishers also offer to send to all new subscribers for the year 1895 the thirteen weekly issues for the last quarter of 1894, forming an octavo volume of 824 pages, gratis. The *EDUCATIONAL REVIEW* and *Littell's Living Age*, both for \$8.00 a year.

Maritime Boys' Camp, 1895.

The Maritime Boys' Work Committee takes great pleasure in inviting you to attend their summer camp, which will be held on the shores of Head Harbour at the eastern extremity of Campobello, N. B. This invitation is extended to all members of the Boys' Branches and their boy friends, throughout the Maritime Provinces, and representation is also solicited from branches elsewhere. Full description and information will be gladly given to any one desiring them, but a few general ideas are given here. The party will go into camp on August 1st, and will remain until August 12th. About 100