

of this primer, the materials of which are now open to any one, could not have been written sixty or seventy years ago without a life's labour, and the very names of most of the books and authors mentioned in them were unknown, even to the best informed Frenchmen."

The main characteristic of French literature, according to Mr. Saintsbury, and that which imparts its chief claim to interest, consists in the length of time which it covers "without any sensible break in the manifestation of real, living literary activity." The earliest French poems are not couched in a different tongue from that which is spoken in France to-day; the history of French literature "from the Chanson de Roland to the latest work of M. Victor Hugo is continuous without a single break, and the Chanson itself can be read by a person only acquainted with modern French with at least as much facility as that with which a modern Englishman can read Chaucer." There is a difference of 400 years in date between "Roland" and "The Canterbury Tales," and the only English poetry that can be called contemporaneous to Roland was in fact written in Anglo-Saxon; two solitary facts which go to shew what a wide difference exists between the early literatures of England and France.

THE NEW TEXT-BOOK OF CHEMISTRY,
for use in High Schools and Academies,
by Le Roy C. Cooley, Ph.D. New York :
Scribner's Sons.

Of all elementary text-books on Chemistry we have seen, this is one of the most valuable. Besides containing the most recent results of chemical investigation, it is so constructed that an intelligent study of the volume will make the reader practically familiar with the latest theories. The fundamental facts and principles of the science are simply but exhaustively treated. Those subjects only that are of most importance are brought prominently forward, and, though the scope of the work is wide, considering the size of the volume, the author has shewn commendable judgment in his

selection of topics. The frequent reviews at short intervals, while they prove the teaching ability of the editor, encourage and secure a complete mastery of the science. The experiments are well selected and the engravings are in the highest style of art. A more useful volume than Mr. Cooley's it would be hard to find, and we only regret that we possess no Canadian Chemistry of the same character and completeness.

HAND BOOK FOR BIBLE CLASSES: THE
LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST, by the Rev. Jas.
Stalker, M.A. 150 pp. crown 8vo. Edin-
burgh: T. & T. Clark; Toronto: Willing
& Williamson, 1881.

IN a compendious, elegantly printed, fifty cent volume issued by an Edinburgh publishing firm, whose contributions to the literature of professional theology have won a world-wide fame, we have the story of the life of Our Lord told with all the interest with which modern critical scholarship can invest the subject, and with that charm which attaches to vivid portrait-painting and a cultured literary style. Among the better signs of the times in which we live, notwithstanding the prevailing rationalism, is the absorbing interest felt in the central figure of history, and in the Christology which the present age, with all its critical appliances and devotion, has wrought out to present to the Christian world with the exclamatory phrase: "Behold the Man!" Though the work of a clergyman, there is nothing in the volume to remind us of that ecclesiasticism which pervades so many biographies of Christ, and which imposes upon their writers the obligation of executing their work in harmony with the creeds and standards of their denominations. The story is told for its moral and spiritual beauty, with just so much of doctrine as illustrates Paul's expositions of Christ's redemptive work and mission, and with the special purpose of presenting the main features and the general course of Our Lord's life, to Bible students, and of causing "the well-known details to flow together in the reader's mind, and shape themselves into an easily comprehended whole." The divisions of the work may be