

MISCELLANEOUS.

New English Grammar.—Messrs. Macmillan and Co. will publish in the autumn a work on English grammar, by the Rev. W. G. Wrightson, of Cambridge, which will carry the logical and grammatical analysis of the language farther than has yet been, attempted in books of this kind.

Rousseau on Arithmetic.—L'arithmétique pratique s'étend plus loin qu'on ne pense quand on veut y mettre l'exacte précision. Il y a des opérations d'une longueur extrême, au milieu desquelles j'ai vu quelquefois de bons géomètres s'égarer. La réflexion jointe à l'usage donne des idées nettes; et alors on trouve des méthodes abrégées, dont l'invention flatte l'amour-propre, dont la justesse satisfait l'esprit, et qui font faire avec plaisir un travail ingrat par lui-même. Je m'y enfonçai si bien qu'il n'y avait point de question soluble par les seuls chiffres qui m'embarrassât: et maintenant que tout ce que j'ai su s'efface journellement de ma mémoire, cet acquis y demeure encore en partie, au bout de trent ans d'interruption.—*Les Confessions.*

A last word on Carlyle.—The truth has to be stated, even by a devoted disciple of Carlyle. These Irish reminiscences, like the former volumes, reveal a very weak, discontented mortal, instead of the strong, terribly earnest, scathing prophet whom we behold in his works. Yet, in spite of this revelation of weakness and ill-temper, the great torn heart of the man is plainly visible. A preacher who denounces the evils of his time is apt to let his voice grow harsh with perpetual remonstrance. Jeremiah had not a smooth tongue, and probably Isaiah frequently made himself unpleasant to his friends. When these miserable reminiscences are forgotten, Carlyle's influence will again be felt, and he will then be more gratefully remembered by an age that owes much to his teaching.—*Mrs. Heaton in "the Academy."*

Paraphrase as a branch of Composition.—No doubt paraphrasing is a good verbal exercise when it means turning a bad style into a better; but, when the very best words to express their meaning have been sought out by Skakespeare or Gray or any other great master, we cannot see that it can improve any one to turn their masterpieces into other words, which cannot fail to be worse. We wish the writers of composition books would insist more on the virtue of thoughtful and conscientious translation from foreign languages. There is no better means of getting a free use of a wide range of words, and of wooing at least, if not winning, that power of expressing in words the most delicate shades of thought and feeling which distinguishes the true literary artist.—*Saturday Review.*

Education in Spain.—The Congress assembled in Madrid towards the end of June to discuss the best method of furthering the cause