

## Periodicals.

*Our Dumb Animals* has reached its twenty-seventh volume, and it deserves to grow in its prosperous career until there is no more cruelty to animals to protest against. It is pre-eminently adapted to young people, who, after all, are the best subjects for such an education as this interesting little paper aims at giving. If the young could be prevented from becoming cruel there would soon be no cruel old people.

*The Bookman* (London: Hodder & Stoughton) is ever welcome. The February number is a capital one. Mr. S. R. Crockett, the parson-novelist, has an entertaining article on some tales of Mr. Kipling's. "Reminiscences of Christina Rossetti," by Catharine Hinkson, will be eagerly read by the many admirers of the poet. A valuable paper is that on the Rev. Dr. Barry, the notable critic whose name is very familiar to the inner circles of the literary world and among a particular school of religious thought. The illustrations of this number include Robert Louis Stevenson's residence, a view of Vaca Mountains where he is buried, pictures of literary Hampstead, and a portrait of Miss Rossetti. The book reviews are numerous and of great value.

The February *Temple Bar* leads off with the serial "Lady Jean's Vagaries" the present instalment concluding the story. Some more letters of the late Edward Fitzgerald to Fanny Kemble are given in this number which will be read by many with keen interest. An article on "Erasmus and the Reformation," by Mr. J. C. Bailey, is good, though we are not prepared to agree with all his conclusions. Philip II forms the subject of a strong paper by Mr. Alfred Harcourt. The figure of this monarch may truly be said, during the whole of his long reign, to have hung like a shadow over Europe. He crushed out the life of Spain when the deadly terror of the inquisition barred all free thought or speech, and reduced the Spanish mind to such a level that it is even now far behind that of any other country in the West. Of the short stories we can commend "A Brace of Lions." It is most amusing.

From Mr. Thomas B. Mosher, the now well-known publisher of Portland, Maine, we have received the January and February numbers of *The Bibelot*—a dainty and delightful little publication devoted to poetry and prose for book lovers, "chosen in part from scarce editions and sources not generally known." The editor states that his plan is to bring together the posies of other men bound by a thread of one's own choosing. *The Bibelot* does not profess to exploit the new forces and ferment of *fin de siècle* writers: it offers the less accessible things that perish never—lyrics from Blake, Villon's ballades, Latin Student songs—literature once possessed not easily forgotten of men. The typography is faultless. It is simple and yet beautiful. Another publication the typography and style of which are worthy of the highest praise is *The Chap Book*, published semi-monthly by Messrs. Stone & Kimball, of Chicago. That there is the most intimate connection between literature and the printed page is a truism, as Mr. Mosher remarks; and the success which has attended *The Chap Book*, and which we are sure will also attend *The Bibelot*, is a most encouraging sign of the times.

*Macmillan's Magazine* for February contains, besides its excellent fiction, one or two articles of great interest. Lieut.-Colonel Hill James occupies the first place with a bright paper entitled "Recollections of the Chinese War." It is, perhaps, little remembered by a younger generation, he says, that so late as five-and-thirty years ago English sentinels did duty on the walls of the great city of Peking. Lt. Col. Hill James declares that John Chinaman is an excellent fighting man if properly armed and decently led. On quitting China in 1863, after three and a half years' experience of the country and its people, he says he could wish for nothing better, as a soldier, than a brigade of trained Chinese well-armed and officered by Europeans. It is the system which is at fault, not the material. "The Sexcentenary of the English Parlia-

ment," by Mr. J. W. Root is well worth careful reading. The current year witnesses the six hundredth anniversary of the birthday of the English Parliament, which so long ago as 1295 took the form in which it now exists. Mr. Root briefly traces the steps which led to the great consummation of 1295, and does not concern himself with the changes which have taken place subsequently, or the demands which are now made by a section of the democracy, of which, as he points out, time alone will reveal the true strength. No one should skip the article on "Dramatis Personae." It is capital.

The Culdees have been a subject of perennial interest to antiquarians, both historical and religious. They are the theme of a somewhat erudite, but quite interesting paper contributed by Dr. Allaria to the January number of the *Scottish Review*. The learned author regards the Culdees as "but a branch sprung up from the older order of clerics established by St. Patrick and his disciples," and he cites a formidable mass of evidence to support this view. Karl Blind undertakes to prove in the same issue that ale drinking was a common practice among the ancient Egyptians and Thracians. A curious episode in the life of the Princely Duke of Chandos connects him with the University of St. Andrews as the founder of the chair of medicine and anatomy and its chancellor for twenty years. A full explanation, drawn from original sources, of the way in which a nobleman, who never was in Scotland, or bound to it by any family ties, came to exercise his generosity in this way, is given by J. Maitland Anderson. The article on "Some Shetland Folk-Lore" is an attempt to embody in permanent form some of the superstitions and linguistic characteristics of the Norse people who inhabit that singular group of islands. "The dialect still spoken in the Shetlands is full of words directly traceable to an Icelandic origin, but the dialect is disappearing fast," says Mr. Burgess, and he adds: "The old beliefs have vanished long ago, leaving behind them, some maintain, strange tale and superstition, folk-lore and local legend, as a blurred and feeble after-shine." It need hardly be added that "trows," the Shetland fairies, play a very important part in the short stories introduced by Mr. Burgess to illustrate both superstition and patois. That superstition was in Scotland not confined to the Shetland Islands is shown in Mr. Graham's article on "Rural Scotland." So late as the first half of the eighteenth century the farmers "believed that disease was due to the hand of God, instead of want of use of their own hands. They held that every season of famine was due to Providence, rather than to their own improvidence. They held that weeds were a consequence of Adam's fall, and that to remove docks, wild mustard, and nettles was to undo God's curse." Ample confirmation of this account of the state of the popular mind is to be found, of course, in Burns's poems. The latter part of Mr. Graham's paper is a most effective plea for the culture of trees, a plea which is quite as much needed in Canada now as it was for Scotland a century and a half ago.

The first article in the *Contemporary Review* for February is the inevitable essay on the House of Lords—this time by J. Fletcher Moulton, M.P. He treats the venerable upper chamber with scant courtesy as to the quality of its raw material. "Its defenders can no longer talk with effect of 'ancestry,' or 'gentle blood,' or 'high birth,' in respect of English Peers. We see them made before our eyes, and know the material of which they are made and the process of manufacture. With the exception of Lord Chancellors and rare instances of literary or scientific merit, the House of Lords is recruited from rich men who have contributed liberally to party funds, or not too successful politicians, who can be shunted only at the price of a peerage." Nevertheless Mr. Moulton does not believe in carrying on a crusade either for the abolition of the House of Lords or for depriving it of the veto on the Commons legislation. He prefers to adopt a federal constitution for the United Kingdom, thus removing from the Lords' veto that great mass of private and public legislation which would be relegated to local Parliaments in the three kingdoms respectively. The veto of the Lords would be less mischievous and less exasperating were it

exercisable only in regard to Imperial or foreign questions. The second article is a fragment on "Pascal" by the late Walter Pater. There is reason to believe, according to the editorial explanation, that he would have added much to it, but be that as it may it is very interesting even as a torso. Mr. Richard Heath calls attention to some of the results of the recent parish elections in various parts of England. He gives statistics for East Anglia, South Wales, some southern, some midland, and some northern counties, and for the Surrey suburban district. In all except the last named the result has been (1) to almost absolutely exclude from participation in the management of municipal affairs both the Anglican and the dissenting clergy, (2) to leave the "gentry" and "middle classes" in a comparatively small minority, (3) to introduce a small proportion of women into the councils, and (4) to give almost absolute control to farmers and farm labourers. If, when the returns are all accessible, it is found that these results have been produced all over England the term "rural revolution" applied to the new parish system is none too strong. Mr. Francis Seymour Stevenson, M.P., adds his contribution to the swelling volume of evidence that the condition of Armenia has become intolerable under Turkish rule, and that the only way to prevent a dangerous international crisis is to force the Porte to carry out the provisions of the Berlin Treaty. Those who are fond of philosophical speculation may read with interest Mr. R. B. Haldane's popular exposition of Hegel's standpoint and outlook. Elisee Reclus discourses in his charming way of "The Evolution of Cities." It seems quite clear, on reading his essay, that the trolley and the electric motor have not been utilized as a decentralizing agency to such an extent in France as in America, or he would have made some mention of them. John Stuart Blackie discourses effectively on a subject that is to him one of perennial interest, "The Method of Studying Languages." The one he prefers is the natural one, the one the mother uses in teaching her child to speak her own tongue, and the teacher is less successful with the foreign language because he requires the child to learn from books instead of things.

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## Literary Notes.

Swinburne has contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* a poem in memory of the late Christina Rossetti.

Silas K. Hocking tells in the *New Age* that the suggestion to kill Sherlock Holmes, as Mr. Canon Doyle did kill him, came from him.

According to *Harper's Weekly*, Francois Coppée is coming to America to deliver a series of lectures on French literature, and to read from his own works. His stories in *Harper's Magazine* have made him known to many Americans.

The name "Sonnets from the Portuguese" was invented by Robert Browning as a title to his wife's sonnets written on their courtship and marriage, the aim being to veil the true authorship. He regarded these sonnets as "the finest written in any language since Shakespeare's."

Macmillan & Co. announce as an addition to the "Eversley Series," a volume of selections from the writings of Henry David Thoreau, edited by his biographer, Henry S. Salt. They also announce that the "Men of Action" series will be extended by the addition of "Wolfe" by A. G. Bradley, "Colin Campbell" by Archibald Forbes, and "Nelson" by J. K. Laughton.

Mrs. Flora Annie Steele, author of the "Tales of the Punjab," is the wife of a retired Indian civilian. She uses the camera in her travels, and as she is acquainted with five native Indian dialects she is well equipped for the exploitation of the folk-lore of Hindustan. Mrs. Steele is described as "a bright, cheerful, ruddy-complexioned little woman, somewhat over fifty years of age, with a fine head of gray hair and a merry twinkle in her eyes."