

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

The *Cosmopolitan* for December contains the opening chapters of a romance, entitled "The Great North Road," by Robert Louis Stevenson, which brings back with fresh strength all the regret of his departure. No other hand can do such work. A new serial by James Lane Allen is also begun in the same number, made attractive by the delicate appreciation of nature which distinguishes his writing, but in which unfortunately there is an alien and almost gross note, an infection from the new literature. Ouida and Sarah Grand contribute short stories. The whole number is remarkably attractive.

"Private Jams" is a pleasing short story from Temple Bar in *Littell's Living Age* for December 21st.

It would be hard to say which is the more charming—Stockton's short story, "The Staying Power of Sir Rohan," or Harris' "The Colonel's Nigger Dog," both of which appear in the *Christmas Scribner*. Each is so characteristic of that part of the country from which it comes and withal so spontaneous that the reader has not once to get on his tip-toes after an effect. "The Amazing Marriage" is concluded. Anyone of the articles might be mentioned for its excellence.

"Cast up by the Sea," a reproduction of a painting by W. H. Y. Titcomb, is given as a frontispiece in the January *Quiver*. The opening article, entitled "A Dean and his Deanery," is an appreciation of Dr. Payne Smith, Dean of Canterbury, who died in March of this year. Two good serials are running at present, and the usual departments are full of interest.

"National Drawing Course."—Free-Hand Drawing, Mechanical Drawing, Color Study, Outlines of Drawing Lessons for Primary and

Grammar Grades, Drawing Cards, Drawing Books and special material from Ginn & Co., Boston, U. S. A. This valuable and extensive course on drawing is produced by Anson K. Cross, Instructor in the Massachusetts Normal Art School, author of many school texts on drawing. He has been assisted by Miss Amy Swain in the more elementary work. The course is an important advance in the teaching of art, and will be of great service to those interested in education. Color study is especially interesting and opens up a comparatively new field of work.

Moliere's "Les Precieuses Ridicules," edited by M. W. Davis, with introduction, notes and vocabulary, Ginn & Co., Boston. This is a specially good edition, containing not only the text and assistants to it, as also a biographical sketch, critical estimates of Moliere by Goethe and Sainte-Beuve and a bibliography.

"Outline of the Philosophy of English Literature."—Part I. "The Middle Ages," by Greenough White. Ginn & Co., Boston. The aim of the author has been not so much to give histories of individual men, as to discover the characteristics of periods and the connections between them. In doing this he has taken a wide range in European history and art. Such a treatment of the subject cannot fail to be of value to the development of literature.

"Places and Peoples," edited and annotated by Jules Luquiens, Professor of Modern Languages in Yale University. Ginn & Co., Boston. A French Prose Reader, containing excellent selections from Alexander Dumas, Taine, Pierre Loti and others. The text is given with but few notes, sufficient merely to encourage the student.

"The Philosophy of School Man-