

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THE *Critic* has completed the tenth year of its successful and useful career.

SARAH E. TITCOMBE will publish soon a second edition of her work, "Aryan Sun Myths: The Origin of Religions."

MARY HARTWELL CATHERWOOD's new story, "Little Renault," will be issued in serial form in the *Century Magazine*.

THE Russian police have seized all the copies of the memoirs of the Princess Dolgoruki, just published at St. Petersburg.

MRS. GRANT's volume of reminiscences of the General may not be finished as early as next winter, when it was hoped it might be ready.

FRANCIS ADAMS, the Australian poet, is about to issue, through Messrs. Vizetelly and Company, an English edition of his poems, "Songs of the Army of the Night."

MONCURE D. CONWAY has written a "Life of Hawthorne" for the "Great Writers" series, which will be published simultaneously in the United States and England.

It is announced that the author of "Thoth," "Toxar," etc., published anonymously, is J. Shields Nicholson, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Edinburgh.

MR. W. F. R. SHILLETO, son of the Cambridge professor, and Mr. Victor Plarr, of Oxford, are the candidates for the post of librarian at King's College just vacated by Mr. Lamb.

ALL the principal sections of the White Mountains are included in a new work by Rev. Julius H. Ward, to be aided by characteristic bits of scenery. The Appletons will publish it.

MRS. LYMAN ABBOTT, wife of the successor to Henry Ward Beecher as pastor of Plymouth Church, is to become one of the editors of *The Ladies' Home Journal*, on September 1st next.

THE eleventh annual conference of the American Library Association will be held at the Fabian House, White Mountains, September 9-13. There are indications of an unusually large gathering.

THE memoir of Robt. Browning, on which Mrs. Sutherland Orr is engaged, will appear, together with "Asolando," as the seventeenth volume of the New Edition of Browning, published by Smith and Elder.

THE Humane Education Society, of Boston, offers \$250 for the best essay in favour of vivisection, and \$250 for the best essay against it. President Angell, 19 Milk St., Boston, will furnish particulars.

ALPHONSE DAUDET, who has been seriously ill, is now in better health and is working at Champrosay upon his new romance, "La Caravane," which will be published in *Le Temps* in the course of the year.

HEINE is to have a monument at Düsseldorf. Paul Heyse, the German novelist, has charge of the movement and Herder has prepared the designs for the statue, which designs have been inspected by William II.

JAMES WILTON BROOKS, editor of *The University Magazine*, has received the degree of LL. D. from St. John's College, Annapolis, and is said to be the youngest Doctor of Laws in America, being but thirty-six years old.

MACMILLAN AND COMPANY will publish immediately the first volume of Prof. Alfred Marshall's long expected treatise on "The Principles of Economics." It is an attempt to present a modern version of old doctrines.

MR. ERNEST PARKE has been released from prison after six months' detention, on the ground of ill-health. A very influentially-signed petition for this purpose was presented to the Home Secretary only a short time before.

THE *Levant Herald* reports the prosecution of three Turkish gentlemen for the piratical appropriation and reproduction of the literary works of a professor of the College at Bayazid. The Stamboul Court assessed the damages at £480.

MR. ANDREW LANG says that Ibsen is "a prosy person, with no sense of humour." Exactly; and is incapable, therefore, of seeing human life and character as they are; for the quality of humour is inseparable from true perception.—*New York Tribune*.

THE 450th anniversary of the invention of printing has just been celebrated at Cologne, and attracted literary men and others from all parts. Speeches were made, and a special play, illustrating incidents of Gutenberg's life, was performed before the visitors.

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S "Journal" is to appear in the autumn, reproduced from the original, which is preserved at Abbotsford. Lockhart used much of the matter of the "Journal," but there is said to be a great quantity remaining that is of the truest interest.

THE Abbé Desgodins has at length brought the MS. of his Tibetan-Latin-French Dictionary—a monumental work which has required years for its completion—to Paris. It has been accepted by the Papal Propaganda, and will be forthwith sent to press.

MR. JULIAN HAWTHORNE pays a deserved tribute in *The Critic* of July 19 to his own and his father's old friend, the late Francis Bennoch of London; and Prof. Charles Sprague Smith, of Columbia College, sends an account of Stanley's "doctoring" at Oxford.

ANOTHER unpublished book of Victor Hugo's was brought out in Paris on June 17th by the house of Hetzel-Quantin. It is called "En Voyage," and is a journal of

two trips that its author made in 1839 among the Alps and in 1843 through the Pyrenees.

THE forthcoming edition of Mr. Ruskin's poems will be of particular interest to his admirers. It will not only contain several pieces never before published, but it will be illustrated with drawings by the author of many of the scenes described in the poems.

D. LOTHROP COMPANY have just issued "Hermit Island," by Katherine Lee Bates; "The Crown of Life," selections taken from the writings of Henry Ward Beecher, by Mary Storrs Haynes, and "The Golden Key," one of George MacDonald's short stories.

MR. BESANT has had two remarkable experiences in connection with his little story, "The Doubts of Dives," and his publisher (Mr. Arrowsmith, of Bristol) has issued a special edition of the book, with a prologue entitled "Was It Hypnotism?" in which the author alludes to them. The coincidence of names in the book with those of certain individuals in South Africa has already been made public property, and it is not that, we presume, to which the query about hypnotism refers. The hypnotism comes in, if at all, in the case of the mysterious visitor who called on Mr. Besant, and threatened him with legal proceedings for having hypnotically appropriated his ideas!

THE *New York Nation* closed the twenty-fifth year of its existence with the issue of June 26, and marked the event by a long and interesting *resumé* of some important changes which have taken place in the social and political life of the country within that time. The *Nation* has exercised a distinct influence on American thought. Its editorial utterances have been characterized by great force and independence; they have often passed beyond the bounds of dispassionate discussion, but they have never lacked ability and courage. It has been an admirable characteristic of the *Nation* that it has attacked political offenders of all parties with unsparing vigour, and has never discriminated between Republican and Democratic rascals.

Outing Weekly Tennis Record, of which the midsummer number appears this week, is enlarged to twenty-four pages, and contains most excellent accounts from its own special correspondents of all the important tournaments of the week in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, with many excellent illustrations specially prepared by *Outing* artists. The popularity of lawn tennis is second only to baseball, and as this game enlists both sexes in actual contest, we think it is destined to supersede baseball as an amateur's game. Like the growth of lawn tennis, the success of *Outing Weekly Tennis Record* has been almost phenomenal. This week's *Record* embraces the tournaments at Chicago, Ill., Westchester, N.Y., Hastings, N.Y., Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass., Pittsburg, Pa., etc. The "Local and Club Talks" are exceedingly interesting, and cover as wide a field as the game of tennis.

OF the reminiscences of James Berry, the English public executioner, the *Pall Mall Gazette* remarks: "The book is now all but finished. There are nine chapters in it, and in three the writer has sketched his wheel of life plainly. The first tells the story of how he became an executioner. The second relates his first practical experience. The next deals with the apparatus, and has some pictures in it; this is followed by a terrible chronicle—'Men and Women I have executed.' Then Mr. Berry discusses his treatment by the public, and tells how murderers die. He then relates some travelling experiences and gives his impression upon capital punishment. The ninth and last chapter in the book is of some interest, for in it Mr. Berry describes 'Celebrities I have met.' A large sale is expected for this 'shilling dreadful.' The first edition will consist of 50,000 copies."

EDWARD MARSTON, the veteran London publisher, writing in the *August Scribner's* about "How Stanley Wrote His Book," gives the following particulars of the materials from which it was made: "Mr. Stanley's memory of names, persons, and events is quite marvellous, but in the compilation of his book he by no means trusted to his memory. His constant habit was to carry a small note-book, 6 x 3 inches, in his side-pocket; in this he pencilled notes constantly and at every resting-place. Of these note-books he has shown me six of about one hundred pages each, closely packed with pencil memoranda. These notes, at times of longer leisure, were expanded into six larger volumes of about two hundred pages each of very minute and clear writing in ink. In addition to these field note-books and diaries, there are two large quarto volumes, filled from cover to cover with calculations of astronomical observations," etc.

WE see items sometimes about the value of rare books in the hands of bibliomaniacs or at auction sales, but there is now in San Francisco a volume that which there are few more valuable in the world. It is worth exactly \$30,000—not a fancy price either. Thirty thousand dollars is its actual cash value. It is the registry of the whereabouts and identity of 3,000 Chinese corpses in the city cemetery, all of which will have to be dug up and returned to China in due time, while a disinterment permit costs \$10. The ex-superintendent of the cemetery has the book, and says that he made it, and that therefore it is his own private property. The health officer thinks it belongs to the city. We think so, too, for it is clearly the duty of the superintendent of the cemetery to keep a register or list of the graves and their contents. We hope that prompt action will be taken to prevent the destruction or disappearance of the book pending legal settlement of its ownership.—*Report*.

SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.

A TRIED CURE FOR INSOMNIA.

EVERY night, at an early bed-time, take a five-grain pill of asafoetida; be careful to take no strong medicine after three o'clock in the afternoon; half an hour before getting into bed take a hot foot-bath. Let the water be as hot as can be borne at first, and add a little very hot water as it cools. Be sure to keep well covered up, and to have the feet in the water for a full half-hour. A month of this treatment, under the most adverse circumstances, completely cured the insomnia of a friend, who had run the entire gamut of narcotics, stimulants, eating before retiring, and tiring himself out.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

AN INTERESTING CASE OF BRAIN LOCALIZATION.

THERE is in Paris a mutual autopsy society, each member of which pledges his body to be dissected after his death by the rest. Special attention is given to the brain, and the society is composed of well-known scientists. In this way M. Manouvrier made a careful study of the brain of M. Adolphe Bertillon, and in a supplementary note calls attention to a few peculiarities of special interest. It appears that M. Bertillon was deaf in the left ear, and had been so from infancy. The sense of hearing having been localized in the first temporal convolution, this part of the brain on both sides was examined to see whether there was any difference in the development of the two halves of the brain. It was found that while on the left side this convolution was well developed, with a number of slight ridges and furrows in it, on the right side it was smaller and without these characteristics (the centre for each ear is located in the opposite hemisphere of the brain). While, of course, a single observation of this kind is far from conclusive, yet the method is one promising to corroborate generalizations otherwise reached, and to suggest and explain peculiarities based upon the individual capabilities.

THE PRE-FRONTAL REGION OF THE BRAIN.

MODERN physiologists, says a Berlin correspondent of the *Lancet*, regard the pre-frontal part of the brain as the seat of character and intellect. After the removal of this part in dogs and monkeys, no paralysis of any muscles or loss of sensibility occurs, but singular changes in the behaviour, emotions and character of the animals have been observed. They become livelier, restless, impatient, irritable, quarrelsome and violent. Their movements seem purposeless, and their attention to what is going on around them, and their intelligence, are diminished. These observations have been confirmed by similar phenomena in the case of human beings. The well-known "Crow-bar case," described by the American physician, Dr. Harlow, is one in point. A young man was busy tamping a bursting-charge into a rock with a pointed iron rod, when the charge suddenly exploded, and the rod entered his head under the angle of the lower jaw, came out in the frontal region, and was found some distance off, covered with blood and brain-substance. He became childish, wilful, fickle and restless, and suffered loss of intellectual power. Gradually, however, these symptoms disappeared; he recovered, and lived for thirteen years. His skull is preserved in Harvard University.

THE two sides of the human face are not exactly alike, and a German biologist asserts that the lack of symmetry, as a rule, is confined to the upper part of the face. In two cases out of five the eyes are out of line, and seven persons out of every ten have stronger sight in one eye than in the other. Another singular fact is that the right ear is almost invariably higher than the left.

IN England and other parts of Europe, horse shoes are now in use, made of cowhide instead of iron. The shoe is composed of three thicknesses of the hide, which is pressed into a steel mould and afterwards treated by a chemical preparation. The shoe is quite smooth on the outside surface, no calks being needed, as the shoe adheres firmly on polished pavements. It is claimed this shoe is much lighter than the iron one, lasts longer, and that the hoofs of horses wearing them never split.

SOME experiments have recently been made at Spezzia on the Italian man-of-war, *Messaggiere*, with a view of ascertaining the speed attainable with coal and petroleum mixed for fuel, and they seem to have resulted in producing a high speed at a given moment. The *Messaggiere*, which never before surpassed fifteen knots an hour, reached almost seventeen with the new process of combustion, so that the increased speed supplies a very valuable assistance to a ship imperfectly defended. It is stated, however, that the immense heat generated affects the boilers injuriously, but arrangements are being made for obviating this in the future.—*London Industries*.

PROF. R. H. THURSTON, in a recent article, gives a graphic description of what electricity will do in the future. He says it will break up the present factory system and enable the home-worker once more to compete on living terms with great aggregations of capital in unscrupulous hands. Great steam-engines will undoubtedly become generally the sources of power in large cities, and will send out the electric wire in every corner of the town, helping the sewing women at her machine, the weaver at his pattern loom, the mechanic at his engine lathe, giving every house the mechanical aids needed in the kitchen, the laundry, the elevator, and at the same time giving light, and possibly heat, in liberal quantity and intensity.