

seem to us to have the unusual excellence—unusual in manuals of this kind—of not giving too much help to young students, and yet supplying a certain interest to the running comment on the grammatical details. For instance, at page 68, in describing the *sudes* or stakes driven into the Thames bank in order to check Cæsar's march upon London, Mr. Dunn adds the fact that these stakes were still to be seen in the time of Bede, in the eighth century. This is just what breaks the monotony only too usual in text books of the kind. An analysis in English is given by the editor of the progress of the narrative at the head of each chapter, which is helpful to the young scholar. The Vocabulary certainly has the merit of not attempting too much. It might with advantage have been the compiler's endeavour to give still more etymology than he has done. This is a fault common to all the text books we have seen of late, yet we are free to confess our conviction that nothing puts life into the dry bones of grammatical study, and what Carlyle called "gerund-grinding," better than some insight into the history and inner life of language. Instead of adding to the difficulty of using a vocabulary, such a plan would, we believe, make the study both easier and pleasanter. A special feature in the notes, which we heartily commend, is the thoroughness with which reference is made to Harkness's and to Smith's Smaller Latin Grammars. The text book, on the whole, is creditable to the industry and scholarship of the editor.

COWPER'S TASK (Book III.—The Garden), with an Introduction and Philological and other Notes, by G. Edmund Shaw, B.A., U.C.T., Master of Modern Languages, Toronto Collegiate Institute. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co., 1881.

MR. SHAW has told the touching story of Cowper's life in a manner which exhibits a genuine sympathy with the poet's genius and gives a just estimate of his literary work. The seven pages of the Introduction are pleasant reading, and give the leading facts of Cowper's career so as to awaken the interest of those for whom the book is designed. There are a few evidences of hasty writing; for in-

stance, in the sentence, "The year after the publication of the hymns, Cowper began, at the request of Mrs. Unwin, longer poems than he had hitherto attempted." The verb "began" would be better in its place at the beginning of the final clause. We consider, also, that the expression, "and which," though used by some good writers, is inelegant. Mr. Shaw on two occasions uses this form of conjunction. A noteworthy feature of the book is the insertion, after the Introduction, of a series of extracts from the leading biographies of Cowper, such as those of Mr. William Benham, Mr. Goldwin Smith, and M. Taine. These are calculated to be of no little benefit to the young people who are to make their first acquaintance with Cowper from this excellent little volume. The Notes seem to us singularly good, being prepared with thorough accuracy and care, and explaining everything that at all required explanation. Much interesting etymological information, also, is given. The remarks on the scansion of the "Task" throws considerable light on a subject which ought to be carefully dwelt upon for the benefit of all beginners in the study of English poetry—that of the metrical form of the poem. It would perhaps be as well to explain in all cases what is meant by the words "trochee," "spondee," "anapæst," etc. This volume also contains Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," with a useful Introduction and Notes by Mr. J. W. Hales, M.A., Professor of English Literature at King's College, London. The publisher's part of the text book is creditably done, but in this portion of the book we note that the proof reading is occasionally defective. The Introduction to the "Deserted Village," by Mr. J. W. Hales, is much briefer than Mr. Shaw's Introduction to Cowper; in our opinion it is too scant and sketchy. The story of the poet's youth, which so fully exemplified the truth that "the Boy is father of the Man," is not told. We note a few lapses in the Latin quotations of the notes which competent proof reading might have avoided. At page 60, line 13, there is an unpleasant repetition of the word "writer." The estimate of Goldsmith's literary position on the whole is well given. Of the two Lives of the Poets, we think that, both in literary form and in fulness of detail, the better essay is that of Mr. Shaw. We specially commend his portion of the book. Of the various editions we have seen of "The Task," Mr. Shaw's, in our opinion, is by far the best.