

NOTES ON CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE CENTURY for April opens with the first of the series of papers on English Cathedrals, the introduction to which was printed in the March number—the text being by Mrs. van Rensselaer and the illustrations by Mr. Pennell. Upon this work Mr. Pennell has been engaged many months, and the illustrations printed in this article on the “Mother Church of England,” as Mrs. van Rensselaer characterizes Canterbury, show a union architectural faithfulness and picturesque interest unusual in drawings on such subjects. The edifice is shown from different points of view and in many aspects of light and shade. The “life of Lincoln is this month devoted to “the Territorial Experiment,”—the Kansas difficulties. Lincoln’s opinions and positions in regard to slavery fully set forth, partly in extracts from his speeches. Mr. Atkinson follows up in this number the valuable papers already contributed by him to *The Century* by another on “The Margin of Profits,” considering the question whether capital is securing an undue share of the joint product of labor and capital. Mark Twain appears in this number in the rôle of a humorous critic of the methods of popular education, in an article entitled “English as She Is Taught,” in which he gives some funny examples of the answers given by pupils in the Public schools of which the following are a few : *Capillary*, a little caterpillar ; *Emolument*, a head-stone to a grave ; *Equestrian*, one who asks questions ; *Eucharist*, one who plays euchre ; *Ipecac*, a man who likes a good dinner ; *Mercenary*, one who feels for another ; *Parasite*, the murder of an infant ; and so on.

IN ST. NICHOLAS, for April, we find, “The Story of the Merrimac and the Monitor,” the first of General Adam Badeau’s “War Stories for Boys and Girls,” with its graphic descriptions and spirited illustrations ; another but of a more peaceful type, is a charming article on “Harrow-on-the-Hill,” number three of the Four Great English Schools,” which Mr. and Mrs. Pennell’s graceful pencil and pen are making so attractive. But to many readers the most welcome contribution will be the jolly fairy operetta, “The Children’s Crusade,” by E.

S. Brooks, the author of the successful “Land of Nod.” It is easy to mount, yet affords fine opportunities for display. The music is simple and tuneful. This, with many other highly attractive parts, make this number one of the best yet issued.

ST. NICHOLAS for May, which just now, April 16th, since the above was written, has been brought in, seems hardly less attractive. We have not looked much into it but observe a lovely frontispiece, in connection with “Historic Girls,” “Catarina of Venice: The Girl of the Grand Canal,” afterwards known as the “Daughter of the Republic.” The Brownies canoeing in this number is very good.

A SANITARY Registration of Buildings Bill is before parliament in Great Britain.

PNEUMONIA is much more to be dreaded now than the small-pox, yet few people fear it, or anticipate it.

ANOTHER patient of Pasteur’s, the forty-fifth, a Spaniard, who was bitten by a wolf, has just died. He went at once to Paris and went through the “treatment.”

THE medical officer of health for the Stokesley Union, in his annual report, states that during the past year the death-rate for that place was only 8.8 per 1,000, and not a single death occurred from zymotic diseases.

JAPAN is going ahead of Europe in sanitation as in many other matters, says the *Sanitary Record*. The Imperial Institute at Tokio is, it appears, the only college in the world, as yet, that has a professor of sanitary engineering.

A FARMER of New Albany, Miss., was bitten last December by a mad dog. He applied a mad stone which was highly esteemed in the community, but all the same he died on February 21st, with the most pronounced symptoms of hydrophobia.

TYPHOID FEVER appears to have established a firm footing in all the Australian colonies. Although less severely felt in South Australia, it prevailed to a greater or less extent in all populated parts of this province during 1885-86, and in some places the disease assumed an epidemic character.