

## Book Notices.

*Flame, Electricity, and the Camera. Man's Progress from the First Kindling of Fire to the Wireless Telegraph and the Photography of Colour.* By GEORGE ILES. Toronto: The Publishers' Syndicate, Limited. 1900. Pp. xv-398. Price, \$2.00.

The romance of science is far more fascinating than that of the novelist. As Mrs. Browning sings, "God is far the greatest poet, and the real is His song." It is a long journey that mankind has made from the first use of fire, yet within this century, flint and steel were the chief means of ignition. It is fitting that the marvellous progress in science of the century should be summed up in this handsome volume. Mr. Iles records its best achievements, especially in the production and application of electricity and photography.

Many of us use the electric car and telephone or telegraph every day, yet we are as ignorant as Choctaws, or as Oom Paul, about the principle of their operation. We have here recounted in untechnical language the chief advances of science in the century—multiplex and wireless telegraphy, the telephone, stellar photography, the theories of light and heat and electricity, their permutation and persistence, the mysteries of dry plates, the curiosities of the kinoscope and telephoto lens which proved so useful in South Africa, and many other curiosities of science.

We may claim Mr. Iles as a Canadian. He was for many years a resident of Montreal, and much of his scientific work has been done in this country. This well-printed Canadian edition is very handsomely gotten up and beautifully illustrated.

Professor John Fiske, one of the ablest scientific authorities of the United States, writes thus of this admirable book: "I have read the proof-sheets of your book with an intense interest growing into red-hot enthusiasm. It is one of the most fascinating books that I have seen in the last ten years. Your points are so well taken, so happily and so richly illustrated with examples, and their bearing on the main argument is so skilfully kept in view, that the result is to my mind a truly great book, and I venture to predict for it a great future."

*The General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church from 1792 to 1896.* Prepared by a literary staff under the supervision of REV. LEWIS CURTS, D.D., Publishing Agent of the Western Methodist Book Concern. Cincinnati: Curts & Jennings. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. vii-427. Price, \$2.50.

This well-printed octavo is a record and monument of the marvellous growth of Methodism in the United States in a hundred years. It is divided into two sections—one chronological, the other topical—which makes it invaluable for ready reference. While most of the Conference journals have been greatly abridged, those of the earlier Conferences were so very meagre that more information will be found in this book than in the original publications. In fact, the journal for 1792 has never been found, and, under the direction of the last General Conference, the Publishing Agents secured Rev. Dr. T. B. Neely to reproduce it from such sources of information as he might find obtainable, and he has accomplished the difficult task with the precision that marks all his efforts.

*The Lord's Arrows.* By LOUIS ALBERT BANKS, D.D., author of "Christ and His Friends," "The Heavenly Trade-Winds," "Anecdotes and Morals," etc. Cincinnati: Curts & Jennings. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Pp. 309. Price, \$1.20.

There are thousands of ministers who preach excellent sermons, sermons that are highly effective as heard; but there are comparatively few that can preach sermons that are so effective as read. Guthrie, Spurgeon, and Dr. Parker, all had this rare gift; so, also, in a very conspicuous manner, has Dr. Banks. These discourses are forceful presentations of divine truth; they possess also literary grace and a human interest which reminds us strongly of Guthrie's great masterpieces. Several things contribute to this result. For one, they are brief, the wordsmith strikes while the iron's hot, and doesn't hammer away after it has cooled. The sermons abound in incident and illustration, especially from the Scriptures and religious