

the more modern historical method. This admirable series cannot fail readily to convey to a multitude of readers the very information they want and which time and circumstances debar them from obtaining from the larger works, which are in this and the companion volumes, indicated by references. The maps, suggestions, table of contents and index leave nothing to be desired. The value of these small epochal volumes is altogether out of proportion to their size, and we do not well see how other authors or editors could have better done their work.

PERIODICALS.

The Quiver for May is noteworthy for its high and well sustained religious tone, which always appeals to our Sabbatarian feeling and suggests rest. Admirable papers by the Dean of Windsor, Dr. H. Macmillan and the Rev. E. J. Hardy appear in this number and a complete story "Can the Wrong be Righted?" by L. Sharp, is very pathetic. The Quiver seems always worthy of commendation.

The May number of that delightful household magazine "The Art Amateur" comes to us amid so much that is severe, with a refreshing welcome. It is pleasing to note that in the reviews of the latest works in "Gallery and Studio," the author selects with judgment those pictures which are of value, and is not sparing in his praise and blame in his critical comments thereupon. The illustrations are good and useful, and the hints given to aspirants of the brush and the crayon are valuable. We also commend a very able paper the "Treatment of Designs." This number ber ends the 14th year of this able, critical and thoroughly independent journal. Mr. Marks has reason to be proud of its deserved success.

There is no lack of instructive and interesting article in the Scottish Review for April. Whether the reader selects Major Conder's learned paper on the early languages of Syria; P. Hume Brown's contribution on the relations on the relations which existed between that distinguished scholar George Buchanan and the Inquisition, as revealed by newly discovered documents; H. Gough's seasonable discussion of the reviewed fashion of Book Plates; J. B. Jury's historical statement as to the wandering of nations; Dr. J. Beddoe's remarks on the anthropology of Europe; the enquiry of the Marques of Bute into Bredau's Fabulous Voyage, or to some readers the most interesting of all Mr. J. D. Cockburn's description of the beginnings of the Scottish newspaper press—he cannot fail to agree with our estimate of this excellent number.

The famous old Quarterly has still a select circle of admirers: scholarly readers not all of the old school, who appreciate a thorough review by a competent writer who speaks from a full mind, and writes with a fre hand. Very good is the opening review of Sir Grant Duff and Whitley Stokes' memoir and life of the distinguished jurist and publicist; Sir Henry Maine, G. A. Aikens' Life of John Arbuthnot, M. D., F.R.C.P., is next brightly and appreciatively treated. Recent literary discoveries in Egypt received full notice. That extraordinary genius of the 16th century, Fra Paolo Sorpi receives admirable notice, as does the popular French novelist Pierre Loti. The remaining papers are all good, and treat respectively of "The Unseen Foundations of Society;" "The Battle of La Hague and Maritime War;" "Travels in the Mogul Empire;" "Agricultural Depression and its remedies;" and "The Unionist Reaction."

The Edinburgh Review for April, which has come to hand rather late, opens with a descriptive paper on Mashonaland, a narrow strip of territory north of the Transvaal, "Philibert Commerson" comes in for a very high place in scientific research, and the critic endeavours to do justice to the memory of this naturalist who did not live to reap the harvest of his labours. The Colonial Policy of France is sketched and handled through

notices of recent volumes by Leon Deschamps, M. Jules Ferry and others, which is followed by a historical review of the English Parliament, full of interest to all who love to trace the polity of the English people. "Fontainebleau" will appeal to archaeologists and philologists, while it is a pleasure to find the Duke of Argyll's treatment of "The Unseen Foundations of Society," so favourably commended. Captain A. T. Mahan on Maritime Power, and Proctor's Old and New Astronomy are both carefully handled.

Among the contents of the May number of St. Nicholas, which is always delightfully illustrated, we have quite an awakening to springtide. The poems, illustrations and descriptive papers of woodlands and brooks and gay holiday time will especially appeal to young folks, while Mrs. C. V. Jamison commences a pleasant story on Toinette's Philip, that of "The White Cave" proceeding through three very interesting chapters. "The Secrets of Snake Charming" by G. R. O'Reilly, and "The Story of Monkey Moke," by Poultney Bigelow, form capital reading for young folk.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL.

Mr. Clark Russell's latest story is entitled "The Tragedy of Ida Noble." It is issued, with forty-six illustrations by Everard Hopkins, by Messrs. Hutchinson and Co.

Dr. Thomas O'Hagan has a new book of poems in course of publication by The Williamson Book Company. The admirers of Dr. O'Hagan's facile and pleasing stanzas, will be gratified with the new issue.

Mr. Ruskin appeared at the inaugural concert of the Coniston Choral Society on 7th April, and vigorously assisted in the encores. This is the first time he has attended a public gathering for many years.

Mr. Bert Harte, we learn from The Bookman, is writing a new poem for publication in one of the magazines. He will contribute an article on his first book to the series at present appearing in The Idler.

We are pleased to call the attention of Canadians to a charming little volume by Mr. Arnold Haultain, entitled "Versiculi." These poems, with their suggestive title, will, we are sure, be heartily welcome to a wide circle of readers.

The Famous Composers and their Works, reviewed in our last issue, and for which Mr. A. G. Virtue, Toronto, is agent, is sold in Canada for sixty cents. This admirable publication should prove invaluable to musicians and all lovers of music, and should have a very large sale in Canada.

Charles Scribner's Sons have arranged with the London publishers for the American editions of a series of "Books about Books," edited by Alfred Pollard. Each volume will contain from ten to thirty illustrations from originals in the British Museum, the university libraries and the collections of private owners. Besides the regular edition, there will be an edition limited to one hundred and fifty copies.

The first play to be publicly presented by the New York Theatre of Arts and Letters was Mary E. Wilkins' tragedy, entitled Giles Corey, Yeoman. It was performed on the evening of April 18th, the leading parts being carried by Mrs. Agnes Booth and Eben Plympton. Its story is of the Salem witchcraft delusion of 1692, and it is published in book form with illustrations, by Harper & Brothers.

The Dramatic Literature Society of Toronto has been organized, being an outgrowth of the series of lectures by William Houston, M. A., on Dramatic Literature before the Y. M. C. A. The object of the society is the study of the literature of the drama. Following are the officers: President, Rev. Stuart Acheson; Vice-President, Mrs. Palmer; Secretary, Mr. Steans; Treasurer, Mr. G. A. Stainson. Council—Miss Kyle, Miss Weatherall and Mr. Adams.

The subject of Dr. Bourinot's presidential address to the Royal Society of Canada, which meets at Ottawa on the 22nd inst., is "Our Intellectual Strength and Weakness." We hope to print it whole or in part.

Dr. Bourinot has been elected a foreign honorary member of the American Antiquarian Society, which meets twice a year, once in Boston and once in Worcester, Mass. It is made up of the best historical scholars in the United States; and its papers have been specially full of interest of recent years. Among the latest contributors are Mr. Firth, the eminent Oxford scholar, and Mr. Saintsbury, of the English Records' Office, Senator Hoar, one of the most scholarly men in American public life, was long the President, and is still one of its most active members.

The Rev. H. R. Haweis, whose 'Life of Sir Morell Mackenzie, has been announced, is better known as a writer on musical than on general subjects. He is even so good an amateur musician that he has been wittily described as preaching on the fiddle and fiddling in the pulpit, and he knows so much about bells that he went, not so long ago, to Aberdeen to tell the people there how to manipulate their carillon. It was Dean Alford who, when editor of the Contemporary, tempted him to authorship, and the first notable result was Mr. Haweis' very successful book, 'Music and Morals'—a title, by the way, which led Sir George Grove to remark that music, so far as he could see, had nothing to do with morals. Mr. Haweis lives in Dante Gabriel Rossetti's old house at Cheyne-walk, which, with the aid of his wife, who is an expert writer on dress and decoration, he has made a truly artistic residence.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Adams, W. I. Lincoln. Amateur Photography, 50c. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Benton, Joel. Greeley on Lincoln \$1.25. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Spurgeon, C. H. Gospel of The Kingdom, \$1.50. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Thanet, Octave. Stories of a Western Town, \$1.25. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

The Parisian scientist, M. Chiffanjon, not long ago discovered the fact that the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers have the same source, and that the Rio Cassiquari, a stream two hundred miles long, connects the Upper Orinoco with the Rio Negro tributary of the Amazon. If a few sand-bars, etc., were taken away a light-draught steamer could go from one river to the other, and thus cross the continent twice, by different routes.

Charcoal is valuable as fuel, but it has other uses which make it one of the most servicable of articles. When laid flat, while cold, on a burn, it causes the pain to abate; by leaving it on for an hour the burn seemed healed when the wound is superficial. Tainted meat surrounded with it is sweetened. Strewn over heaps of decomposed pelts, or over dead animals, charcoal prevents unpleasant odors. Foul water is purified by it.—Age of Steel.

An incident related recently in the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club goes to indicate that the bite of the tarantula is not especially poisonous. A labourer was badly bitten in the foot, and was much frightened. He was taken to the infirmary, hopping all the way on the other foot. A fomentation of water and spirits of ammonia was applied, and he was given a dose of ether mixture. He ate his dinner heartily about two hours later, and slept well at night. In the morning he complained of no pain and went to work as usual. No local swelling or inflammation was observed, and but little pain at any time. Fright was the only ill effect.—Philadelphia Ledger.