

Sept. 14th, 1894.]

refined a critic on this topic. Most English critics do not seem to recognize that we have had any poets except Poe and Whitman.

Dr. J. A. McLellan's able address on the ethical aim in teaching literature, from which elsewhere we publish an extract, evidently produced a marked effect on his hearers. The *New York School Journal* says it "was inspiring" and quotes a deeply interested listener's expression, "That is what I call hearing the soul of an educator speak."

Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., announce publication of the following books: The Diary of Anna Green Winslow, a Boston Girl of 1771, edited by Alice Morse Earle; poems, new and old, by William Roscoe Thayer; English and Scottish popular ballads, edited by Professor F. J. Child; a group of books covering important epochs in the history of several European nations, and, "Come Forth," a novel by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and Herbert D. Ward.

It is a pleasure to note Canadian enterprise—especially enterprise in Canadian journalism—and we beg to offer our able contemporary, *The Monetary Times*, our best congratulations on the enterprise ever noticeable in its management. It is not long since that journal came out in a new, clear-faced type and a superior paper. Like the fat boy in *Pickwick*, we were moved to remark on beholding it, "My! how nice you look!" And now comes a special holiday number of many pages, handsome cover, and varied contents. It is a credit alike to the genial editor, Mr. Hedley, and to his editorial and mechanical staff.

Macmillan & Co. are about to publish a new and complete concordance of Shakespeare, by the well known compiler of "Familiar Quotations," Mr. John Bartlett. This new and great work of Mr. Bartlett has been some twenty years in preparation and is said, on good authority, to be far more elaborate, complete and satisfactory than any work of the kind heretofore published. Mr. Bartlett is especially qualified for such an undertaking, and it will no doubt be found that he has not only earned the gratitude of all Shakespearian students, but of the lay reader as well, in completing this *magnum opus*, which, we understand, contains no less than 400,000 entries.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

A NEW ELEMENT.

The new element, described at the British Association by Lord Rayleigh and Professor Ramsay, has excited great interest. Though it has been facetiously suggested that it is sewer gas, it has also been thought that it is really not a new element, but an allotropic form of nitrogen. Oxygen shrinks up into a denser form, known as ozone, and this new gas has approximately the density corresponding to a molecule consisting of three atoms of nitrogen. The condensed form of oxygen is anything but inert, but it may be possible that as nitrogen is trivalent it forms more staple triple-atom molecules. The supposed new element was discovered by passing electric discharges through air. The nitrogen and oxygen combine, and the compound and the uncombined oxygen are absorbed, leaving the inert gas behind. We must wait until we hear more before chemists will be able to say definitely whether a really new element has been discovered or not.—*Pull Mall Gazette*.

EATING BEFORE SLEEPING.

Many persons, says Dr. W. T. Cathell, though not actually sick, keep below par in strength and general tone, and I am of the opinion that fasting during the long interval between supper and breakfast, and especially the complete emptiness of the stomach during sleep, adds greatly to the amount of emaciation, sleeplessness, and general weakness we so often meet. Physiology teaches that in the body there is a perpetual disintegration of tissue, sleeping or waking; it is therefore logical to believe that the supply of nourishment should be somewhat continuous, especially in those who are below par, if we would counteract their emaciation and lower degree of vitality; and as bodily exercise is suspended during sleep, with wear and tear correspondingly diminished, while digestion, assimilation, and nutritive activity continue as usual, the food furnished during this period adds more than is destroyed, and increased weight and improved general vigor are the results.—*Maryland Medical Journal*.

THE STORY OF AN ELEPHANT.

"That monstrous pachyderm, the elephant, is a difficult animal to understand. It is no trouble to him to work, yet he prefers to be idle. If he wants to knock a house down, or pull up a tree by the roots, he just does it, but at the same time he objects to being compelled to labour a moment longer than is necessary. In the timber-yards of Rangoon he is employed in digging timber out of the Irrawadi river and piling it in huge heaps for exportation. A bell rings at certain hours for meals, or as a signal to knock off work for the day, and if an elephant has a plank partly out of the water, the moment he hears the bell he just leaves the plank where it is. The best mahout in Asia cannot get him to budge an inch when time is up. Elephants are not fed in India on buns, and biscuits, and cigar ends; they get more solid and wholesome fare. A couple of big chupatties, or unleavened loaves, are doled out to them when on the march with troops, and I can vouch for the following incident having occurred during a big gathering of the clans in the Punjab. Two hundred elephants did the furniture shifting for the artillery and commissariat, and in the evening they were drawn up in two long lines to receive their cakes. It happened that the first pair of loaves were lighter in weight than usual, so after the leading elephant had balanced them in his trunk he passed them on to the next. The process was repeated until the two chupatties had gone the round of the two hundred, and the last of the second row handed, or trunked, them over to No. 2. This latter gentleman weighed them again with the utmost care, and then hit his attendant with them on the head, taking such sure aim that the man was felled to the earth."—*The Idler*.

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