

cess Louise. S. W. Tilton & Co. deserve much praise for publishing a series of works on Art Needlework, and other departments of industrial art. This book is a reprint of an English work, with numerous additions relating more especially to America. The history of embroidery is sketched; the materials and implements used are described; the methods of doing various stitches are taught; harmony of color and original designing are discussed; and a few patterns described. Lady teachers and their friends do a great deal of fancy work. Would it not be well to do work of a high and truly artistic character—work that would live after them? Any lady who purchases this work, or has a copy presented to her will be a better woman if she reads it carefully.

*Appleton's Journal* for February is an unusually good number of an excellent periodical. A bare examination of the table of contents would convey a very inadequate idea of its merits, for the titles of magazine articles are often misleading. There are several papers which have a real philosophical value, such as one by Lord Houghton "On Certain Present Phenomena of the Imagination," one by Mr. W. H. Mullock, on "Intolerance and Persecution," and one by Mr. W. R. Greg, entitled "Verify Your Compass." The chapter from Mr. Spencer Walpole's new *History of English Literature* is deeply interesting, the subject being treated from a new point of view, and in a style differing from all that have preceded it. The most curious paper is that on "The Shakesperian Myth," by Mr. Appleton Morgan, who proves to his own satisfaction, following Judge Holmes, that Shakespeare was simply a theatrical manager and playwright, like Wallock or Daly, or perhaps Dion Boucicault; that he never wrote the great dramas which bear his name, but merely adapted for the stage the productions of others; and that the probabilities are strongly in favour of the finer passages having been written by Lord Bacon or Sir Walter Raleigh. It is impossible to deny the authors of this hypothesis—Mr. Morgan being only an expounder and defender of it—the credit of ingenuity, but it must be confessed that they have some work to do in their capacity of iconoclasts before they succeed in demolishing the popular idol, the ideal William Shakespeare.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY FOR FEBRUARY. Prof. Emil du Bois-Reymond opens the February *Popular Science Monthly* with an able article entitled "Darwin vs. Galvani," in which the rival doctrines of teleology and natural selection are discussed and compared in a very instructive and dispassionate way. Prof. Jos. Le Conte follows with his second and concluding paper on the "Scientific Relations of Sociology to Biology," pointing out in this article the true position of Sociology as the chief of all the sciences. "The Crystallization of Gold, Silver, and other Metals," by Thos. J. Gregan, is an illustrated and untechnical account of the various beautiful crystalline shapes taken by some of the precious metals, and the conditions under which the phenomena occur. In the next article, "Herbert Spencer before the English Copyright Commission," we have some strong common sense forcibly applied to a very important question. "The Formation of Mountains" is an illustrated account of a series of experiments performed by Prof. Alphonse Favre, of Geneva, to show the formation of the great irregularities of the earth's surface by means of lateral thrust and crushing due to the process of cooling. People who believe in "bumps," as well as those who would locate the mental faculties a little deeper than the scalp, will be interested in "The Old Phrenology and the New," by Dr. Andrew Wilson. The departments are all good, the Editor's Table and Popular Miscellany especially so. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Fifty cents per number, \$5 per year.

CHAMBERS' ENGLISH READERS. W. & R. Chambers, London and Edinburgh. The series, as far as issued, consists of two

primers and three readers. They are edited by J. M. D. Meiklejohn, M.A., Professor of Education in the University of St. Andrews. They are profusely illustrated. That the child may get ideas before words, one sound, *and only one*, is given for the same vowel in the primer. The teachers are strongly advised not to give the names of the letters until the necessity for the names arises in the minds of the pupils. The selections are very judiciously made. We would be pleased to know that the primers were in the hands of every teacher in Canada. "Probably those sceptics who sneer at phonic teaching as a "Yankee" innovation would be disposed to pay some attention to so distinguished an authority as Professor Meiklejohn.

FIRST FRENCH READING LESSONS, embracing the relation of English to French, and the word formation in the French language intended to facilitate the acquirement of an extensive vocabulary, with grammatical, idiomatic and general notes by Alfred Hennequin, M.A., Instructor in French and German in the University of Michigan. *Ann Arbor Printing and Publishing Company, Ann Arbor, Michigan.* Price \$1.50; special copies bound in paper for teachers, 50c.

These "reading lessons" are intended as a substitute for readers in both schools and colleges. The main aim of the author is to make reading a most helpful means of acquiring an extensive vocabulary, and reviewing the most important grammatical principles of the language.

The following extract from the preface will explain some of the advantages this work may claim over the numerous Readers in present use:

"There is evidently more than one aim in view when the student of the language makes a first attempt at reading."

"It should be the means of acquiring a vocabulary,—of fixing in the mind the grammatical principles already studied,—of getting an insight into the genius of the language,—and finally of beginning to speak French."

"In nearly all the so-called 'Practical French Courses' very little is said, if anything, of the relation existing between the French and English words. Likewise nothing is said of the word-formation in the French language."

"The English language contains more than nine thousand French words, or at least, closely resembling French. Now, if we add to this number, more than ten thousand words that can be formed from other root-words—many of which have already been learned by the student, before beginning to read—will it not seem a very rational thing to devote a short time to this special study—the relation of English to French and the word-formation in the French language, before attempting to read at all?"

"Finally, we have avoided translating the idioms, as is usual in Readers. The idioms have been analyzed when possible, in such a way as to fix them on the student's mind."

### Official Department.

The following circular to the School Inspectors has been sent from the office of the Minister of Education:—

"Sir,—In some cases it has been found impossible, from various causes, or extremely onerous, for School Trustees to comply with the law and regulations on Public Schools. In such cases it is not desirable or expedient, in the opinion of the Honorable Minister of Education, to deprive the school of its share of the School Fund.

"The Minister, therefore, requests that the circumstances of all such cases should be fully reported to him by the Inspectors concerned, so that he may be enabled to consider them, and to give the necessary directions in each case.

"I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"ALEXANDER MARLING, Sec'y.

"Toronto, Dec. 26, 1878."