

BOOK REVIEWS.

A TEXT BOOK OF NEEDLE WORK, KNITTING AND CUTTING OUT, with methods of teaching, by Elizabeth Rosevear. MacMillan & Co., London and New York; pp. 460; price 6s. This book appears most opportunely. Sewing is not taught in the schools of Canada as commonly as it should be, but even where it is professedly taught it often degenerates into mere fancy work, ungraded, learned by imitation and wanting in the practical and educational results that such a useful study ought to secure. In this book we have a gradually developed series of exercises suitable for every grade until the pupils are able on scientific principles to cut out and complete the simpler garments. Such useful accomplishments as darning and knitting receive the attention they deserve. The book abounds in illustrations showing how the blackboard can be used as in other educational subjects. This study is raised above the mechanical plane which it occupied in the past, and as here presented becomes a mind, a thought stimulator. We would recommend it to our sisters in the profession as the best book we have yet seen on the subject.

THE CECILIAN SERIES OF STUDY AND SONG, *Common School Course*, by J. W. Tufts, price 85 cents, publishers Silver, Burdett & Co., Boston. The present volume of this series affords working material to teachers who desire to cultivate musical taste in their pupils. The books are written in staff notation and are prepared expressly for use in the class room. The number which we have seen, called the "Common School Course" is arranged for mixed schools and classes and is divided into three parts. The first part contains music set for one voice only; the second takes up two part harmony, while the third has songs and exercises for three voices with added notes for bass. The plan of the book presupposes, on the part of the teacher, a fair knowledge of musical theory, but the six or eight pages of "hints and directions to teachers" give very useful ideas as to the best method of imparting such knowledge to the pupils. The "Cecilian" treatment of time is very suggestive of our tonic sol-fa plans. The use of the French time names is recommended as well as the study of time forms apart from tune. There are special exercises for time, and one excellent feature throughout this book is the careful selection of preparatory exercises for any difficulties either of time or tune that present themselves in the songs. Each song group is preceded by a corresponding group of exercises to prepare the singer for the new steps introduced.

CATULLUS, with introduction, notes, and vocabulary, edited by Elmer Truesdell Merrill, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. Cloth, pages 273. Price \$1.50. Ginn & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass. This work is evidently a labor of love by the editor, from the enthusiasm with which he has thrown himself into the life of the Roman poet. His introduction is no dry recital of facts, but a warm, sympathetic prelude to what is to come, a bit of *rus in urbe* to readers of "introductions." The notes, which are arranged at

the bottom of each page, are critical and have an originality and independence which at once enlists the attention of the student. The work is a valuable addition to Ginn's "College Series of Latin Authors."

THE CLASSIC MYTHS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, edited by Chas. Mills Gayley, University of California. Cloth, pp. 589, price \$1.65. Publishers Ginn & Co., Boston, Mass. This work, based chiefly on Bullfinch's "Age of Fable," is attractive in style and contents, the illustrations and maps profuse and clear, and a perusal of its pages designed to give a clearer insight into English as well as classical literature. It should be in every school library for reference.

VIRGIL'S ÆNEID, Book II, edited by J. C. Robertson, B. A., principal high school, Toronto Junction. Cloth, price 50 cents. W. J. Gage & Co., publishers, Toronto. This convenient and well printed book has several excellent features, such as some finely executed illustrations; a vocabulary that covers the whole six books of Æneid and which therefore gives a pupil a wider grasp of a word than the usual one-book vocabularies; notes and references that seem to be particularly clear and definite to students beginning Virgil; and an introduction giving the story of the Æneid, with a chapter on the metre. Both editor and publisher have done their work well. But we must take exception to one view of the editor in his introduction. "He (the editor) has endeavored merely to help the pupil to a clear understanding of the poet's meaning, leaving appreciation or enjoyment of the beauties of the poem to come, as alone they will, with increasing acquaintance with Latin." Why not at the beginning try to make him appreciate the beauties of the poem? Not one student in twenty will pursue Latin further than the high school, and if he does he will pursue it with a zest from having been taught from the first to appreciate the beauties of such a poet as Virgil. That girls and boys are not sooner led to do this is one reason why such a poem as the Æneid is thrown aside in disgust after a "grind," giving sufficient to pass the examination, is worked up.

Mr. Carman's book, "LOW TIDE ON GRAND PRÉ," the title being taken from the well known poem of that name which forms the initial number of the volume, is now out, from the press of C. L. Webster & Co., publishers, New York. Prof. Roberts' latest book, "Songs of the Common Day," which is published by an English house, has been shipped and is now on the way out.

GEOGRAPHY BY MAP DRAWING, by Amos M. Kellogg, fifty cents, E. L. Kellogg, New York. As an illustration of a sound method of teaching geography this little pamphlet of 74 pages would be admirable if it contained about twenty pages. One gets tired of the repetition—a fault too common with American books of method. As this book deals entirely with the United States it is not of course suited for our schools, and would be valuable to our teachers only as it exemplifies correctness of method.