

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Shute's Series of Leaflets.

Boston. Eben Shute. 1878.

The publisher has sent us samples from two of these series, viz. "The House-top Series," and "The Salvation Series." They are well fitted for distribution, having always the very best of purposes close in view, while at the same time the style is lively and attractive.

The Kirografer and Stenografer.

Amherst, Mass.: J. B. & E. G. Smith.

The above is the title of a quarterly publication, devoted to "reform in Orthography, Clurography, Stenography, Typography, Language, Education, and Kindred Arts and Sciences." The first number is now before us, containing a variety of articles principally bearing on Stenography. We do not doubt that many persons will find it useful, as long as it gives its attention chiefly to improvement in short-hand; but if it sets itself to effect reforms in "orthography, language, education and kindred arts and sciences," it will probably fail for want of the ability and learning which are necessary in order to give weight to any proposals or suggestions involving change in these departments.

Is there a Hell? An Enquiry and an Answer.

By Rev. John A. Cass, A.M. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. 1878.

This is a little book of thirty-one pages in stiff paper covers. The matter consists mainly of a critical examination of the three Scripture words which have been rendered into English by the word "hell." Of the results of the examination we give the author's own epitome:

"1. That *Sheol*, in the Old Testament, sometimes translated 'hell,' does not mean a place of future misery, but simply the region of the dead, the abode of departed spirits, without any reference to their happiness or misery; and that the doctrine of a place of future retribution does not rest on this word.

"2. That *Hades*, in the New Testament sometimes translated 'hell,' does not mean a place of future misery, but simply the region of the dead, the abode of departed spirits, without any reference to their happiness or misery; and that the doctrine of future retribution does not rest on this word.

"3. That *Gehenna*, in the New Testament uniformly translated 'hell,' does mean, in every instance, a place of future misery; and that the doctrine of future retribution does rest on this word as a chief corner-stone. *Gehenna* becomes, then, the most blood-curdling word in human speech, and is but faintly represented by our word 'hell' with all its horrible associations."

The book may be the means of startling some of those who rest their hope upon a doubt.

The International Review.

New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

The March-April number of this bi-monthly is on our table. It opens with the Confederate Reminiscences of Alexander H. Stephens, who here furnishes to the public many facts of great interest. He combats the recently published statements of Gen. Richard Taylor. In his second article Hon. David A. Wells presents a valuable Review of the Elements of National Wealth, including the annual incomes and savings of the principal nations of the world. Will. T. Pritchard, F.R.S., F.A.S.L., long a resident of Mexico, treats the Mexican Question under the title of the "Mexico of the Mexicans," commenting on the policy of the United States. A fascinating account of the public and private lives of some famed and learned women of Bologna is given by Madame Villari of Italy, wife of Prof. Villari, who was Minister of Public Instruction under Victor Emmanuel. This is Madame Villari's first appearance in an American periodical. The Method of Electing the President, past and future, is ably discussed from the judicial and political standpoints by Judge Thomas M. Cooley of Michigan and Hon. Abram S. Hewitt of New York. Other articles are by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Osgood on Modern Love; Gen. de Peyster (of New York) on New York and its History; Prof. A. P. Peabody, D.D., LL.D., of Harvard College, on The Relation of Morality to Religion; Baron F. Von Holtzendorff, the well-known German jurist, on Imperial Federalism in Germany. Silver in Art is appropriately described by E. C. Taylor of New York. The department of Contemporary Literature embraces recent important English, German, French and American books by eminent foreign and American reviewers.

The Canadian Monthly.

Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

The number for March contains: "Such a Good Man," by Walter Besant and James Rice; "Multum

in Parvo," a poem, by F. R. Barrie, Ont.; "The Royal Navy," by G. W. G., London, Ont.; "Opium Eating," "The Loves of Alonzo FitzClarence and Rosanna Ethelton," by Mark Twain; "Shine Inward," a sonnet, by Laurentius; "The Spectroscope and its Lessons," by S. H. Janes, Toronto; "Love and Pride," a poem, by Fidelis; "A Modern Proserpine," by Mrs. Francis Rye, Barrie; "Professor Tyndall's Materialism," by Prof. John Watson, Queen's University, Kingston; "Margaret Fuller Ossoli," by G., Toronto; "Russian Serfage," by X. Y., Toronto; Round the Table; Current Events; Book Reviews; Annals of Canada. The article on "Opium Eating" might have been called "The Confessions of an Opium Eater," had not that title been already used up by De Quincey. The writer has by sheer force of will succeeded in freeing himself from the pernicious habit in question, and his object in this paper seems to be to deter others from forming such a habit, and to indicate to those who are already enslaved the only method by which they can escape. Mr S. H. Janes' paper on the Spectroscope supplies the history of that useful invention, and notes some of the more important astronomical discoveries made by means of it. Those who like occasionally to dip into metaphysics will appreciate the article on Prof. Tyndall's Materialism by Prof. John Watson, of Queen's University. When the student of matter leaves his own field and comes blundering into the field of mind, he ought to be met by the man who has made mind and its properties his special study; and those physical scientists who have, with scalpel and microscope, been so long searching for a soul, and imagine every now and again that they have found one, had better not believe it until they have convinced the metaphysicians.

The Canada Christian Monthly.

Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.

In the number for March the editorial department is occupied by a vigorous article on the Liquor Traffic, under the heading, "A Very Crooked Stick." In the opening sentences we are reminded that very much time and means and energy have already been wasted in the endeavor to straighten sticks that were hopelessly crooked and had to be destroyed, or at least condemned, at last. Such were slavery, licensed gambling establishments, and legalized brothels. The editor affirms—and we think proves—that the liquor traffic of the present day is such another crooked stick as those just mentioned, and calls upon Churches and councils and parliaments to relinquish the vain effort to straighten it. Under the head of Christian Thought there appears an able and appreciative criticism of Joseph Cook's Lectures, by Rev. A. W. Williams. His estimate of the famous lecturer is briefly given in the first paragraph, which reads as follows:

"Upon opening this remarkable series of lectures on the Science of Life, the reader is at once struck with the impression that he stands before a mail-clad warrior in the field of thought; one who can wield the mighty hammer of a son of Thor in smiting to the earth every system of philosophy and every theory of evolution or materialism which does not stand on the everlasting pillars of self-evident or axiomatic truth and inductive reasoning. If ever a man was compelled to give a reason for the belief, or unbelief, that is in him, he will be when brought to the bar of common sense, and cross-examined by this master of Aristotelian logic."

A sketch of the life of Rev. William Arnot, from the pen of Rev. David Winters of Philadelphia, profitably occupies the department of Christian Life. We quote a few sentences as bearing on the use of the Bible as a class-book in Public schools. Surely the testimony of such men as Mr. Arnot ought to have some weight in deciding this question:

"At an early date the prayers and the reading of the Scriptures in the parish school made a good impression upon his mind. 'I am sure of this,' he says, 'that the influence of prayer and the Bible at School was good. I never experienced dislike to the Bible because it was a lesson-book. The whole tendency of its use on my mind was in favor of a right religious impression.'"

In a foot-note attached to these words of Mr. Arnot's, we have the additional and not less weighty testimony of the editor, Rev. James Cameron of Chatsworth. The note is as follows:

"Very cheerfully, and in all humility, in connection with such a name as Mr. Arnot's, does the editor bear similar testimony to his indebtedness for a knowledge of the English Bible to the time-honored practice in the Scotch Parish Schools of causing the pupils to peruse with unflinching step the grand old Hebrew Classic from Genesis to Malachi, and from Matthew to Revelation. Lessons on "Chemistry," "Introductions to the Sciences," have been of little account in the stern battle of life, but Joseph and his brethren, David and Saul, Daniel and the tyrants of Babylon, Jesus and His miracles, Paul and his heroic speeches—these stories read verse about loudly and distinctly, seem still in one's ears."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

RAT POISON.—Mix carbonate of barytes, two ounces; with grease, one pound.

GINGER SNAPS.—One cup of molasses; one-half cup of sugar; one-half cup of hot water; one-half cup of butter; one teaspoonful of soda, and one teaspoonful of ginger.

SILVERING POWDER FOR WORN PLATED GOODS.—Nitrate of silver and common salt, of each thirty grains; cream of tartar, three and a half drams; pulverize finely; mix and bottle.

PILK OINTMENT.—Carbonate of lead, half ounce; sulphate of morphia, fifteen grains; stamonium ointment, one ounce; olive oil, twenty drops. Mix and apply three times a day.

POLISH FOR OLD FURNITURE.—Alcohol, one and a half ounces; muriatic acid, half ounce; linseed oil, eight ounces; best vinegar, half pint; butter of antimony, one-and-a-half ounces; mix, putting in the vinegar last.

COFFEE CAKE.—Two cups of sugar; one-half cup of butter; one cup of molasses; one cup of cold coffee; four cups of flour; three eggs; one teaspoonful of cinnamon, and one of cloves; four teaspoonfuls of baking powder.

WOOD'S HAIR RESTORATIVE.—Sugar of lead, borax and lac-sulphur, of each one ounce; aqua ammonia, half ounce; alcohol, one gill. To stand mixed for fourteen hours; then add bay rum, one gill; fine table salt, one tablespoon; soft water, three pints; essence of bergamot, one ounce.

LADY CAKE, II.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one cup of milk, three cups of flour, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder sifted into the flour, the whites of four eggs beaten to a stiff froth and added just before the cake goes into the oven.

FRENCH MUSTARD.—Slice up an onion in a bowl; cover with good vinegar; leave two or three days; pour off vinegar into a basin; put into it one teaspoonful of pepper, one of salt, one tablespoonful of brown sugar, and mustard enough to thicken; smooth the mustard for vinegar as you would flour for gravy; mix all together; set on the stove and stir until it boils, when remove and use it cold.

BREAKFAST ROLLS.—At night take one pint sweet milk lukewarm, two eggs, butter size of a walnut, three tablespoon yeast, flour enough to make it the consistency of biscuit-dough; let it stand until morning, then roll thin as for biscuit; cut in circles about four inches in diameter; butter the surface, and fold together; when the rolls are quite light, bake them in a quick oven.

BEEF SOUP.—Put the bones of a roast, with a little of the lean beef (not a particle of fat) into two quarts of cold water. Let it simmer, *not boil*, until the meat adhering to the bones falls off. If necessary to add more water, it must be boiling. Take off the scum as fast as it rises and half an hour before taking up put in one-half teacupful of rice, and at the same time put in the salt and other seasoning. Make soup in porcelain or bright, new tin.

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.—For a family of several persons, take four large coffee cups full of buckwheat flour, one of Indian meal, one large cooking spoon of molasses, one tablespoon of salt, good yeast sufficient to rise it; mix to batter, with warm water over night. In the morning dissolve one teaspoonful of saleratus, and add to the batter. Thin it properly, if too thick, and bake on a hot griddle, and you will have the most delicious cakes you can wish for. Have at least a pint of this batter left over in the pail. Set it away in a cool place, and the next evening mix your cakes to this as before without adding any yeast, and proceed in this manner all winter.

SANITARY EFFECT OF HOUSE PLANTS.—Even if it is granted, however, in face of these incontrovertible facts, that vegetation exercises no perceptible influence upon the composition of the atmosphere in the open air, many persons will not be disposed to give up the idea that the air in rooms can be improved by plants, because, as is well known, every green leaf absorbs carbonic acid and gives out oxygen under the influence of light. This idea may seem the more justifiable, because, though the production of carbonic acid is not perceptible in the greatest assemblages of human beings in the open air, it is always observed in confined spaces, although the actual production is but small. In the air of a closed apartment, every person and every light burning makes a perceptible difference in the increase of carbonic acid in the air. Must not, therefore, every plant in a pot, every spray, any plant with leaves, make a perceptible difference in a room? Every lover of flowers may be pardoned for wishing to see this question answered in the affirmative. Have not even medical men proposed to adorn school-rooms with plants in pots instead of ventilating them better, in order that their leaves and stems might absorb carbonic acid from the mouths of the children, and give out oxygen in its stead? But hygiene cannot agree even to this. Hygiene is a science of economics, and every such science has to ask not only what exists and whether it exists, but how much there is and whether enough. The power of twenty pots of plants would not be nearly sufficient to neutralize the carbonic acid exhaled by a single child in a given time. If children were dependent on the oxygen given off by flowers, they would soon be suffocated. It must not be forgotten what a slow process the production of matter by plants is—matter which the animal organism absorbs and again decomposes in a very short time, whereby as much oxygen is used up as has been set free in the production of it. It is for this reason that such great extents of vegetation are required for the sustenance of animals and man. The grass or hay consumed by a cow in a cow-house grows upon a space of ground on which a thousand head of cattle could stand. How slow is the process of the growth of wheat before it can be eaten as bread, which a man will eat, digest, and decompose in twenty-four hours! The animal and human organism consumes and decomposes food as quickly as a stove burns the wood which took so many thousand times longer to grow in the forest.—*Popular Science Monthly.*