

REVIEWS.

A Grammar of the Modern Spanish Language, as now written and spoken in the capital of Spain. By William J. Knaggs, Professor in Yale College. Boston. Ginn, Heath & Co., 1882. There is certainly room for such a grammar as this professes to be. Although Spanish has been practically, but we hope only temporarily, banished from our Provincial University, still a knowledge of the language is exceedingly useful, and, that too, not only to those whose sole object is to acquire a speaking knowledge for practical purposes, but also by those who study it for its literature, or as an important member of the Romance Group of Languages. Very much less has been done in the way of presenting the language of Castile to the student in a scholarly form, than is the case with its sisters, French and Italian. Professor Knaggs's Grammar will render, we believe, the study of the language rapid and pleasant, at least to one who has studied other modern languages, but we cannot help regretting that the author has not given the derivation of, at least, such words as are found on every page of a Spanish book. A few derivations are, indeed, given, but no grammar, we think, is quite perfect which does not recognize the wants of the student who wishes to observe the growth as well as the actual forms of the language. A second edition, however, may see this want supplied, especially as a very few pages would have to be added. From our examination of the book we may congratulate learners on their having, through this grammar, a pleasanter path to pursue than we had through a weary, interminable, planless "Ollendorff."

THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER, done into English prose by S. H. BUTCHER, M.A., of University College, Oxford; and A. LANG, M.A., of Merton College, Oxford. New York, Macmillan & Co., Toronto, Wilting & Williamson. This work is specially interesting at present to the student of Greek, coming into our hands, as it does, almost immediately after the keen contest in Edinburgh for the occupancy of the chair recently vacated by Professor Blackie. The successful applicant was Mr. Butcher, one of the translators of the present English edition of the Odyssey. This work carries on its surface the marks of high scholarship; not only do the translators show a due appreciation of the relative value of the Greek and English idiom, but a point and importance are given to the English equivalent of the numerous Homeric particles, which we think must deservedly raise the work in the estimation of every admirer of this great ancient epic. We have seen translations of the Odyssey that aim at a more brilliant and ornate style than the present, but we are not acquainted with any that outshine this in the terseness of its English, in the neatness and pith of its diction. In translations of Homer this seems to us a new departure; the language is essentially English, and if it be "the choice of a somewhat antiquated prose," as the editors intimate in the preface, we venture to say that it is a style that will commend itself not only to Homeric scholars, but also to the great majority of students of English. We hail with much satisfaction a translation of the Odyssey done into English as we see it preserved to us in the Bible or Shakespeare. On this point we take the following from the prefatory notice:

"Homer has no ideas that cannot be expressed in words that are 'old and plain'; and to words that are old and plain, and, as a rule, to such terms as, being used by the translators of the Bible, are still not unfamiliar, we have tried to restrict ourselves. It may be objected, that the employment of language which does not come spontaneously to the lips, is an affectation out of place in a version of the Odyssey. To this we may answer that the Greek epic dialect, like the English of our Bible, was a thing of slow growth and composite nature; that it was never a spoken language, nor, except for certain poetical purposes, a written language. Thus the Biblical English seems as nearly analogous to the epic Greek as anything that our tongue has to offer."

The brief notes that accompany the work are chiefly of a philological and archaeological character, and are "meant to elucidate the life of Homer's men." They embody the results of the most recent investigation, presented in a very scholarly manner, but we should have preferred to see them scattered through "he work as "foot notes," rather than collected at the end as they are. We can only regret that the annotations are not more copious and numerous; but the authors inform us that "some day they hope to write at length on Homeric syntax and

Homeric forms of words, as well as on the heroic society of the poet's age." An excellent article by way of introduction is given on the composition and plot of the Odyssey, and the events of each day of the six weeks occupied by its action are given in the order of their occurrence, and form a neat and clear synopsis of the whole. In addition to this each book is prefaced by the argument taken, with slight alterations, from the translation of Hobbes.

MAGAZINES.

The ATLANTIC MONTHLY for November has been received. The plots of the two serial stories, "Two on a Tower" and "The House of a Merchant Prince," are thickening and the crises approaching. "Rube Jones" is a capital short story. George S. Wilson, a lieutenant in the American army, in an interesting article gives his views as to how the Indians are to be civilized. Charles Dudley Warner contributes "A Ride in Spain." There are, besides, an additional instalment of "Studies in the South," a good notice of Daniel Macmillan, the publisher, and a number of other articles on various subjects. The number fully maintains the reputation of the magazine for the literary excellence and interest of the menu it provides.

The most interesting articles in the November number of the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW are one on "English Views of Free Trade" by John Welsh, and on "The Pretensions of Journalism" by the Rev. George T. Rider. Mr. Welsh was formerly United States minister to England and while a resident there he made himself acquainted with the speculative and political opinions of the various English schools of thought on the matter relating to trade. In this paper he argues strongly in favor of maintaining the United States protective system, but he bases his arguments on national exclusiveness just as other protectionists do. In his view everything sent out of the country is a draw upon it, and it is better to be self-contained, consuming at home all that is produced at home, than to encourage the growth of international trade. Whether a system erected on such a basis can long stand the able assaults of teachers like Prof. Sumner remains to be seen. Mr. Rider gives full credit to modern journalism for enterprise and ability, but criticises for its presumption. The New York Nation invented some time ago the phrase "trial by newspaper" to describe the American journalistic fashion of subjecting all kinds of disputes to their own analysis and verdict, and this phrase sums up in a condensed form one of Mr. Rider's criticisms. He is, as might be expected, particularly severe on Sunday papers, to the malign influence of which he attributes the diminished power over the people.

CENTURY for November is the first number of a new volume and it is a splendid beginning. One of the most striking articles in it is a sketch of the novelist, Henry James, junior, by his brother novelist W. D. Howells, which is all the more valuable from a literary point of view because it gives incidentally a partial glimpse of the progress made in novel writing as an art. The profusely illustrated articles are on "Venice," "A new Profession for Women," "The Beginning of a Nation," and "Sculptures of the Great Pergamon Altar." It is needless to say that in these both letter-press and engravings are fully up to the high Century standard.

ST. NICHOLAS for November is also a first number and a good one. It contains the opening chapters of what promises to be one good serial, "The Story of Vitean" by Fran. R. Stockton, and another "The Tinkham Brothers Tide-Mill," by J. T. Trowbridge. These admirable letters of young people's stories need no words of commendation from us. What comes from them may be taken on trust. Amongst the sketches (illustrated) are "A Boy in the White House, who was the son of Abraham Lincoln, and "Torpedoes," in which the terrific power of these machines is graphically described. There are besides these a multitude of good things in prose, verse, and picture, too numerous to mention.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE, which is a weekly and not a monthly visitor, has during October pursued the even tenor of its pleasant way. "The Cruise of the Carrol Club" is a most entertaining sketch which manages to break off in each weekly instalment at the most interesting point. The article on "Piano-Playing in the Time of Mozart and Beethoven," is accompanied by a good portrait of the latter. "Some Hints on Dog-Teaching" will capture the boys.

ONTARIO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS CERTIFICATES, 1883.

The subjects of the Examination for Teachers' Certificates in July 1883 will be those of the curriculum of which notice was given in March last, as modified by the amended Regulations of 31st July, 1883, excepting:—

- (1.) The subjects of *Physiology and Hygiene*, which, being professional, will be examined upon at the end of the County Model School session.
- (2.) The subject of *English Literature*,—in which there is an option available by every candidate of "Goldsmith's Traveller" for "Marmion."
- (3.) *Drawing* is made optional and is placed under item 7c, which will read "French and German" or either of these with "Music or Drawing." (Intermediate Examination.