

The result of impartial criticism. — Quite recently a certain new book was reviewed in two leading journals, with a result which is indeed, says Truth, a curiosity in literary criticism:—

"It is not interesting, it is not amusing, it is in fact, one of the most negligible works we have recently encountered. The compulsory reading of these volumes will afford as humiliating discipline as the Penitential Psalms."

"These are most interesting, valuable, and attractive volumes, and their perusal is as delightful as it is instructive. . . . From whichever point of view this book be considered, it is deserving of the highest praise."

Messrs. Sampson, Low, Marston & Co. will publish shortly "The Princely Chandos," a biography of James Brydges, afterwards the Duke of Chandos, by Mr. John Robert Robinson. The volume, which will be illustrated, will give per-sonal traits of the great Duke of Marlborough and other personages of the reigns of Queen Anne and George I., also interesting details on financial matters affecting the nation, and the marvellous fortunes of the Duke of Chandos. The strange history of his political and private life, of his great wealth, his vast speculations, his beautiful estate of Canons, his friendship with Handel, Swift, Hogarth, Gay, Pope, and others, and of the munificence which procured for him the epithet "Princely," is related for the first time in this work. James Brydges was Paymaster-General to the forces abroad during the most brilliant part of the Duke of Marlborough's military career, 1705-11.

The Academy says: "Mr Le Gallienne, who recently came out as a defender of the faith in the controversy with Mr. Robert Buchanan, is shortly to publish through Messrs. Elkin Matthews and John Lane, a little volume of essays entitled 'The Religion of a Literary Man.' Mr. Le Gallienne will treat his subject from a reverential, but entirely untheological, standpoint. Messrs. Longmans have in the press 'A Short History Of Ireland,' by Dr. P. W. Joyce, author of 'Irish Names of Places.' The book is written on a new plan and will be divided into five parts:—I. The Manners, Customs, and Institutions of the Ancient Irish People; II. Ireland Under Native Rulers (down to 1172); III. The Period of Invasion (from 1172 to 1547); IV. The Period of Rebellion, Conquest, and Plantation (1547 to 1695); V. The Period of the Penal Laws (1695 to 1829), with some supplementary chapters, bringing down the narrative to the present day. The first volume coming down to 1608, will be ready in April."

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE KISS OF CHILDREN.

No thought or sense unsatisfied
The kiss of little children brings,
No after-taste of bitter things,
No tearful prayer for peace denied,
No shadow of remorse's wings,
No sense of fallen worth and pride,
No feverish search of Lethe's tide,—
But from their lips contentment springs.

The kiss of little children wakes
The hope of endless better things.
It stirs our hearts till memory sings
Of our lost innocence and takes
Us by the hand—that childlike clings
To hers—along her paths, and makes
Us nobler for the truth, that breaks
The dream the kiss of children brings.
—Charles Gordon Rogers, in New England Magazine.

WHAT PASSES FOR BEAUTY.

The ladies of Arabia stain their fingers
and toes red and their lips blue. In Persia
they paint a black streak around their
eyes, and ornament their faces with repre-
sentations of various figures. The Japan-
ese women adopt the singular method of
gliding their teeth, and those of the In-

dians have them red. In some parts of
India the pearl of the tooth must be dyed
black before a woman can be beautiful.
The Hottentot women paint the entire
body in compartments of red and black.
In Greenland the women colour their faces
with blue and yellow, and frequently tatoo
their bodies by saturating threads in
soot, inserting them beneath the skin, and
then drawing them through. In New
Holland the women cut themselves with
shells, and, keeping the wounds open a
long time, form deep scars in the flesh,
which they deem highly ornamental. An-
other singular mutilation is made among
them, for when in infancy they take off
the little finger of the left hand at the
second joint. In ancient Persia an
aquiline nose was often thought
worthy of a crown, but the Sum-
atran mother carefully flattens the
nose of her daughter. The modern
Persians have a strong aversion to red
hair. The Turks on the contrary, are
warm admirers of it. In China, small
round eyes are liked. But the great beau-
ty of a Chinese woman is in her feet.
An African beauty must have small eyes,
thick lips, and a large flat nose, and a
skin perfectly black. In New Guinea the
nose is perforated and a large piece of
wood or bone inserted. On the north-
west coast of Africa an incision more than
two inches long is made in the lower lip
and then filled in with a wooden plug.
European women paint their faces white
and pink, blacken their eyelashes
and eyebrows, and dye their hair
either golden or auburn. They com-
press their figures into queer shapes!
—Well, we all know how it is done!—"Sift-
ings."

ADVANCES IN BRAIN SURGERY.

There is a form of cranial injury in
which surgical aid is especially benefi-
cial and in which by prompt action life
may frequently be saved. A man falls
down an area, for instance, striking his
head on the hard surface below. He is
stunned for a few minutes and then par-
tially recovers consciousness, which, how-
ever, is gradually lost and profound stupor
sets in. In such an instance there is prob-
ably the rupture of a blood vessel in
the membranes of the brain between this
organ and the skull and blood is effused,
which, by its pressure on the brain, pro-
duces stupor and eventually death. Such
cases were until within the last few years
invariably fatal, and even now, such is
the usual result, for comparatively few
surgeons know what great advances have
recently been made in the science and art
of brain surgery. Only a few weeks ago
a case of the kind occurred in Washington
City in which a man was passively allow-
ed to die when in all probability his
life could have been saved by an operation.
And this operation is a very simple one.
We ascertain from an inspection of the
seat of injury on what part of the skull
the blow has been received, and we are
further strengthened in our search for evi-
dence by the symptoms exhibited by the
patient. We trephine the skull at the
injured point and let out the blood that
has been extravasated. As soon as the
pressure is relieved consciousness is re-
gained and the patient lives. Quite re-
cently operations have been performed up-
on the skull in cases of idiocy innate or
acquired with a view of removing a sup-
posed disproportion between the size of
the brain and the skull, and thus allowing
the organ space in which to grow. A
French surgeon proposed the removal of
strips of the cranium in cases of idiocy in
which as he supposed there was no room
for the brain to expand. Several of his
cases and those performed according to his
method by other surgeons have been in
a measure successful, so that there is
decided encouragement to persevere with
the operation in instances in which it ap-
pears to be suitable. Several years before
the publication of his results the writer
had performed similar operations for the
cure of epilepsy, and in a few cases with
complete success.—From "Brain Surgery,"
by Dr. William A. Hammond, in North
American Review.

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