

ral heroic lays have been, if we may so say, grafted on it at various points, openings being effected by some severe pruning. These grafts have seriously altered the form and foliage of the original poetic growth. In the original plan, Hector and Patroclus must have had places of high courage and renown, one as the formidable antagonist, the other as the honoured companion of Achilles. In the present Iliad, they have receded to the second or third place in heroism. Hector has been humiliated to exalt the pedigree of certain Greek families, which, in the historic period, affected to trace their descent from Diomedes, Ajax or Agamemnon.

The personality of Homer being surrendered, our author awards the place of honour in Greek literature to Æschylus, whose language he finely characterizes as "that mighty diction in which the epithets and figures come rolling in upon us like Atlantic waves."

The chapter on the Greek Theatre is

especially valuable. It notices the inscriptions recently disinterred at Athens, and edited by Komanudes; it also embodies the author's personal explorations at the sites of ancient theatres where the acoustic and scenic arrangements are still quite apparent. In the great theatre of Syracuse, whose capacity ranged from 10,000 to 20,000 auditors, Professor Mahaffy found that a friend talking in his ordinary tone could be heard perfectly at the furthest seat, and that too with the back of the stage open. Here is something for modern architects to meditate on.

In his low estimate of the poetry of Pindar, and the philosophy of Socrates, our critic will probably find some eager antagonists, but his arguments exhibit a front that is not very assailable.

His orthography shows some playful eccentricities: why write *rythm* and not *ryme*, and *retoric*; if we adopt Nicias and Kimon, why retain *c* in Alcibiades!

LITERARY NOTES.

A new edition of the Works of Father Prout (the Rev. Francis Mahony) is about to be published in popular form by the Messrs. Routledge.

A well-conceived and suggestive work on Self-culture, moral, mental and physical, has just been published from the pen of Mr. W. H. Davenport Adams, bearing the title of 'Plain Living and High Thinking.'

A volume entitled 'Passages from the Prose Writings of Matthew Arnold,' has just been brought out in England. The selections are classified under the following divisions: Literature—Politics and Society—Philosophy and Religion.

Mr. Francis Parkman's forthcoming work on 'Montcalm,' dealing with the final struggle between the English and French colonists in Canada, is, we learn, in an advanced stage of preparation. The volume, it is stated, will begin with the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle and end with the capture of Quebec and the death of Wolfe.

The Duke of Argyll has projected a series of papers on 'The Unity of Nature' which are to appear serially in the *Contemporary Review*. When completed they will form a complement to his Grace's notable book 'The Reign of Law,' and will doubtless be an important modern addition to the theistic side of the argument from Design in Nature.

A WORK on 'Egypt, Descriptive, Historical, and Picturesque,' from the German of Prof. G. Ebers, is announced to appear in about forty monthly parts, from the press of Messrs. Cassell & Co., of London. The work is to be illustrated by eight hundred drawings which are said to be of unexampled magnificence and beauty.

'A sensible, well-written book, showing a real knowledge of the subject, and containing many hints likely to be serviceable to beginners in Literature,' on the subject of 'Journals and Journalism,' has just been issued in England, by Mr. John Oldcastle. Messrs. Field & Tuer are the publishers.