

RECENT BOOKS.

It would be difficult to conceive of a more attractive and useful book than Prof. Atkinson's *Studies of American Fungi*,¹ nor one that is destined to exert a greater influence in the study of an important class of plants that have been overlooked and avoided simply because of ignorance of their qualities, and the want of a suitable book of low price. In addition to its general attractiveness and the beauty of its illustrations, it is written in a style well calculated to win the merest tyro or the most accomplished student of the fungi. The plain untechnical language of the descriptions in the first part of the book will be heartily appreciated by the grateful novice, who, with interest aroused as he proceeds, gradually becomes accustomed to the cautiously introduced technical terms and that scientific treatment, unavoidable in works of this kind. And it is vastly to the credit of the distinguished author that he has given us a book on a little known subject couched in such good, homely Anglo-Saxon phrase.

The illustrations, from photographs, represent all the genera of agarics in this country, and different stages of development of the more common species. These clear photographs and the plain descriptions make the book especially valuable for the amateur fungus hunter, in picking out the edible from the poisonous species of the most common kinds. There are chapters on the collection and preservation of the fleshy fungi, how to photograph them and keep records of the important characters which often disappear in drying; on the selection of plants for the table, etc. The book is beautiful and useful, well fitted to help teachers in nature study, and to make known a class of plants useful as food.

"Song Waves"² is the appropriate name of a collection of lyrics from the pen of the late Dr. Rand. It is a beautiful book and, with the fine portrait of the author, will be welcomed by his many warm friends and admirers. The poems, with others not hitherto published, give evidence of that maturity of thought, ardent love of nature and fine sensibility of the writer.

Some lines seem like premonitions of that quiet but sudden release of his spirit in May last:

Encamped am I; Earth's not my home.
The glory flashing 'neath yon dome,
Refusing to be leashed, like music,
Supernal is, and it beckons, come!

Fell death still thunders at his task,
But death the peace of God doth mask.

As a rule Book-keeping is taught worse than any other subject in the course of study. It is only after many folios have been copied that the ordinary student begins to comprehend fully the meaning even of such common terms as debtor and creditor. Only a small fraction of those who take a course ever obtain a complete grasp of the few fundamental principles which relate to journalizing, to the profit and loss account,

¹ *STUDIES OF AMERICAN FUNGI: Mushrooms, Edible, Poisonous, etc.* By George Francis Atkinson, Professor of Botany in Cornell University, and Botanist of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. Andrus & Church, Ithaca, N. Y., U. S. A., publishers. 8vo. Pp. i-vi, and 1-275, with 76 plates and over 150 text illustrations. Price, \$3.00, postpaid.

² *SONG WAVES.* By the late Theodore L. Rand, D. C. L. Cloth. With portrait. Pages 121. Price \$1 postpaid. Wm. Briggs, publisher, Toronto.

to discounts, etc. We do not remember having seen any other book on this subject which makes the general principles so plain, and lays such a good foundation for rapid progress as does Mr. Ireson's *Textbook*.¹ Technical terms, as they are needed, are fully explained and illustrated in simple and precise terms. The first chapters treat of only essential principles. Thirty-two typical examples are explained with great clearness and in fullest detail. By referring to one or other of these types the student can solve almost any difficulty that can arise in bookkeeping. This is, therefore, a most valuable book for teachers in general and for private students, for to them it takes the place of the specialist.

A. M.

Although necessarily similar in subject-matter to many existing treatises on Mechanics, the volume before us² recommends itself by a number of minor originalities. The value of experimental illustrations is fully recognized, and the author has described about fifty experiments which may all be performed by teacher or student with the help of very inexpensive apparatus. At the same time more elaborate apparatus, if available, may be used to illustrate much of the subject matter. The text is accompanied by numerous representative examples. The diagrams are well executed; the formulas and section headings are in clear type, and following each chapter is a useful summary. On the whole the book presents an interesting and unhackneyed account of matters which form the stock-in-trade of elementary mechanics.

The author of *Preliminary Practical Magnetism and Electricity*³ is already favorably known to teachers of science through his more advanced *Physical and Electrical Engineering manuals*. In this little book we have a series of experiments in magnetism and electricity, which, although elementary, are still quantitative in character. The work is to be done by the pupil himself, the object being to supplement his study of the ordinary textbook by a connected series of observations and measurements. Full descriptions are given regarding the preparation and setting up of apparatus, together with numerous suggestions about methods of observing, drawing inferences from data, and tabulating results. The apparatus required is inexpensive, and most of the work can be done by the ordinary high school pupils.

F. R. H.

The authors of this new work⁴ deserve great credit. They evidently had a well defined plan which they have carried out with admirable consistency. They display a degree of familiarity with the idioms of the German language as used by authors in North and South Germany, as well as in Austria and Switzerland, which one rarely meets. We find for instance, "Küss die Hand!" (A polite phrase to express a respectful greeting or thanks) which is only used in Austria, whilst "den Rappel Priegen" is only heard in North Germany. The authors show their up-to-dateness in modern German by explaining the

¹ *A TEXTBOOK OF BOOKKEEPING.* By Frank Ireson, B. A. Pages 332, 9 x 6 in. Price 4s. 6d. Published by Macmillan & Co., London and New York.

² *ELEMENTARY MECHANICS OF SOLIDS.* By W. T. A. Emtage, M. A. Pages 333. Price 90 cents. Macmillan & Co., publishers, London; The Copp, Clark Company, Limited, Toronto.

³ *PRELIMINARY PRACTICAL MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY.* By John Henderson, D. Sc. Pages 45. Price 35 cents. London: Longmans, Green & Co., publishers. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company, Limited.

⁴ *SELECTIONS OF GERMAN IDIOMS.* By Taker and Roget. Publishers, Messrs. Macmillan & Company, Ltd., London. Price 3s. 6d.