

school and home will find its favourites. A great advantage is secured by the careful arrangement of the songs and the introduction of apt quotations either on the more immediate subject of the song or on music in general.

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL BOOK-KEEPING. Williams and Rogers, Rochester.

This is not only one of the newest but one of the most complete works on book-keeping which we have seen. It deals with the method of keeping books in most of its phases, and the explanations are so full and clear that it may well be called self-instructing. It is of such a size that the examples supplied for the guidance of the student approximate to those in actual business. As a rule, however, the exercises are too lengthy to enable a student in a short time to obtain an intelligent grasp of the subject; and not sufficient attention is given to single entry, which, in spite of all the efforts against it of teachers of book-keeping, maintains its ground in the stores of a large portion of our retail dealers. The book is beautifully printed on fine paper.

GERMAN POETRY FOR SCHOOLS. Edited by C. H. Parry, M.A., and G. Gidley Robinson, M.A., Assistant-Masters at Charterhouse School.

A bright, attractive collection of German poems, selected from a great variety of sources, and supplied with a vocabulary. A few of the earlier poems are printed in both Roman and German type, and literally translated. If all this does not lure the beginner into the wide and pleasant fields of German poetry, how is it to be done?

GERMAN PASSAGES FOR PRACTICE IN UNSEEN TRANSLATION. Edited by A. R. Lechner, Senior Master of Modern Languages, Modern School, Bedford. Rivingtons, Waterloo Place. London, 1885.

The extracts in this little book of 180 pages are intended to test a candidate's ability to translate at sight a passage from an

"unspecified author." For such a purpose great variety is necessary, and as little assistance as possible should be given. Mr. Lechner's collection, containing over 150 extracts, each about a page in length, from over sixty authors in various fields of literature, seems to do as much as can be done in such a very uncertain department.

THE GERMAN VERB-DRILL, presenting the Mechanism of the Colloquial and Written Language; adapted to Schools or Home Instruction. By Adolphe Dreyspring. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1885. pp. 276.

The "German Verb-Drill" is intended to supplement a volume published some two years ago by the same author, and entitled "The Cumulative Method," or it may be used as an oral exercise book to any ordinary German grammar. Mr. Dreyspring recognizes a fact which is well known to all experienced teachers of language, that the verb is really of prime importance, and that a full mastery of its conjugation and a facility in its use, if once attained, make the remainder of the language easy. He also recognizes fully that to divorce theory from practice in language is to fail in both.

Books like this are excellent for oral practice, and the oral element in our teaching of language has been too frequently absent. For every rule or principle an example, both oral and written, and for every example a principle or a rule to be deduced should be the motto. We believe the Verb-Drill, or something like it, would remedy the deadness induced by the exclusive use of grammar and text, and that employed, as the author suggests, for ten or fifteen minutes, to vary the ordinary lessons, it would do much to awaken interest and make the study of language a thing of life. The system, even if not adopted, is worthy of examination on account of its freshness and originality.

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