

BOOK REVIEWS.

A CANADIAN MANUAL, ON Procedure of Public Meetings, by J. G. Bourinot, C. M. G., LL. D., D. C. L., D. L., Clerk of the House of Commons, Ottawa. Pages 144. This work is divided into two parts.—1st, An introductory review of the rules and usages of parliament that govern public assemblies in Canada; 2nd, The procedure of meetings of municipal councils, share-holders and directors of companies, synods, conventions, societies and public bodies generally. There is no higher authority in Canada on parliamentary procedure than Mr. Bourinot, and his large work on that subject some years ago not only made it the authority in Canada, but placed its author among the first authorities in the empire on parliamentary procedure. The present work is in response to a demand for a shorter treatise for the government of meetings and societies in general. It is to be hoped that this book will bring about a better management of public meetings. If the rate-payers in every school district would see that a copy is placed in every school library, it would benefit the rising generation and *might* help them (the rate-payers) in the management of school meetings.

The first step in the investigation of the properties of space is to lay down a system of fundamental properties or axioms from which all others may be deduced. The system should be a full and sufficient characterization of space. There are several such systems and Euclid's is one of them. Given a system, it may be developed in different ways. Euclid's development of his system has many virtues but many defects as well: one of his axioms is tacitly assumed, and others are hidden; there are many redundancies, and the arrangement is arbitrary. Improvements have been suggested by the light thrown on Geometry by modern research; and a modern geometry should incorporate them all.

The "ELEMENTS OF GEOMETRY," by Prof. Halsted, of Texas University, contains as a foundation what is essentially Euclid's system of fundamental space-properties. There are some differences such as the definition of an angle, and that substitution for the twelfth axiom due to Playfair. The work is a "logical re-casting of Euclidian geometry, and the subject is developed in accordance with the results obtained by modern investigators. The propositions are arranged with some regard to their connection with one another. The definition given of "angle" is such as to include "flat" and "reflex" angles; and consequently I. 13 is unnecessary. A right angle is defined as half of a straight or flat angle. The useful term "sect" is introduced to denote that part of a straight line between two fixed points. The theorems of the Second Book are proved by the application of such simple algebraical laws as are true of sects and rectangles. The properties of circles are discussed in a manner to avoid the redundancies and want of continuity of Euclid. Ratios are treated strictly and without limits. Prominence is given to the axiom, tacitly assumed by Euclid, (as in I. 4) that figures may be moved without distortion, and advantage is taken of it to simplify some of the Fourth Book proofs. Figures on a spherical surface may be moved to any other position in that surface without distortion, and hence many properties follow immediately from those that were deduced in the geometry of the plane. Prof. Halsted develops in his ninth book this two-dimensional spherical geometry; and it proves an invaluable assistance as an introduction to spherics.

Altogether, this work contains many things of real value to the teacher of geometry, and the student will find in it the

source of new ideas that will assist him towards a better understanding of the science of geometry. Prof. Halsted has gained fame as a mathematician, and one of his not-least benefits conferred upon us is his translation of Boylai and Lobatchewsky, rendering accessible to the English reader those valuable researches in New Euclidian Geometry. His "Elements" is published by MacMillan & Co., London, and J. Wiley & Sons, New York.

MACMILLAN'S FOREIGN SCHOOL CLASSICS: *Colomba*, par Prosper Merimée, edited with introduction, by G. Eugene Fasnacht. Price 2s. MacMillan & Co., publishers, London and New York. To those who would read in French a story in which murder and revenge are the points on which the interest centres, here is an opportunity. Some of the scenes and characters recall Shakespere's "Othello" and Lady "Macbeth."

CONTEMPORARY FRENCH WRITERS, by Mlle. Rosine Mellé; pp. 212. Publishers, Ginn & Co., Boston, Mass. This is a valuable book for the student of French, embracing selections from the writers of the second part of the 19th century, such as Taine, Ernest Renan, Emile Zola, Paul Bourget, and others. In addition to the selections there is given a biographical sketch of each author, which is in English, (the student would have preferred French) and there are a few well chosen explanatory notes.

MACMILLAN'S ELEMENTARY CLASSIC SERIES: Homer, Iliad Bk. XXIV, by Walter Leaf, Litt. D. and M. A. Bayfield, M. A.; *Quintus Curtius' Selections*, by F. Coverley Smith; *Thucydides, Fall of Plataea and Plague at Athens*, by W. T. Sutthery, M. A., and A. S. Graves, B. A. Price 1s. 6d. each. Publishers, MacMillan & Co., London and New York. These are cheap and excellent works, adapted for the use of beginners, with notes, introductions and vocabularies, and well printed pages.

A BRAVE BABY and other stories, by Sarah E. Wiltze; pp. 142. Publishers, Ginn & Co., Boston. A series of interesting stories of child life.

PAGE'S THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING; pp. 448 paper covers, with biography, notes, portraits and review notes. Published by C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, N. Y. A convenient and well printed volume, that follows "word for word, the only edition which Mr. Page ever authorized."

RULES FOR ESSAY-WORK, by A. W. Emerson. Price 40 cents. C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, N. Y. The author in his preface states, "It is a sad fact that the majority of pupils, not only on entering, but also on leaving, our academies and high schools, write poor English." We are afraid that this little book and those like it will never remedy the evil.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGLISH COMPOSITION, through analysis and synthesis, by P. Goyen, Inspector of Schools; pp. 123; cloth. Price 2 shillings, London, MacMillan & Co., and New York. This book recognizes the fact that decomposition and classification are not the sole end of grammar, but that students should be trained to compose, that is, to arrange words, phrases and clauses in their most effective way.

THE SATIRES OF DRYDEN, edited with memoir, introduction and notes by John Churton Collins. Price 1s. 9d.; pp. 188. Publishers, MacMillan & Co., London and New York. The Satires taken up in this volume are Absalom and Achitophel, The Medal, MacFlecknoe, and their publication in this convenient form, with introduction and useful notes, is of great service to the student of Dryden.