

## Literary Notices.

THE PEOPLE'S HYMN BOOK. (Philadelphia: American Sunday School Union).—For prayer meetings, evangelistic services, union meetings or family gatherings this selection of hymns is one of the very best we have seen. It is not a hymn book for the sanctuary—does not profess to be—but fills its place as above to our judgment most effectually. Hymns and music are not new, it is strictly a collection; familiar voices speak to us in plain, familiar strains. The number of hymns is 350. The music is on the left hand page, the words on the right. The price is 20 cents per copy, or \$15 per hundred, in boards. It does not divorce the hymns of the prayer meeting from those of the sanctuary, yet it selects both words and tunes which, leaving the stateliness of public worship behind, invites fellowship and unites at the throne of grace.

THE *Homiletic Review* for November (New York: Funk & Wagnalls) is before us. Dr. Donald Fraser, of London, leads off with an admirable paper on "How the Pulpit Can best Counteract the Influences of Modern Scepticism," and suggests that it is better that the people should hear of the results of reverent criticism from their religious teachers than from muttered doubts and sceptical writers. We believe Dr. Fraser is right. The pulpit is too timid. The prospectus for 1908 holds out a promise of unparalleled richness and variety of contents.

THE *Pulpit Treasury* for November (New York: E. B. Treat) on our table, like its predecessors, is full of such help as preachers and Christian workers need. The number is exceedingly timely and suggestive. The portrait of Dr. Harper, of Philadelphia, forms the frontispiece, which is followed by a capital sermon on "Centennial Memories." The sermon on "Unseen but Living," by Dr. Joseph Parker, will amply repay perusal.

THE *Century* for October and November are before us, the October number closing the old, and the November opening up with promise bright as ever the new volume. We extract from the October number the following item of interest to our athletes:

### THE DANGERS OF FOOT-BALL.

The game is as safe as any outdoor game can well be, provided it is played with the careful preparation and training which are the rule in the larger colleges; it is a dangerous and unfit game when men undertake to play it without such preparation and training. In the season of last year two fatal accidents were reported; both occurred in colleges which were attempting to play the game as it is played by the leading teams, without any of the preparation which they find an essential. The writer, who has been in the habit of attending the regular games of the college with which he is connected, has felt under obligations to be equally consistent in attending the daily practice games of the men, in order to watch the preliminary training; and he must confess to a great respect for the good sense and good management of the undergraduates who have the matter in charge. The "University team" is selected provisionally; it is pitted daily against a second, or "scrub" team of somewhat larger numbers; both teams are kept under careful

training and supervision; the playing is made short and as gentle as possible at first, until the men begin to become hard; the playing is then gradually lengthened and made more severe as the men become able to endure it; and by the time the season comes to its last game the players are able to endure with impunity treatment which would be dangerous to men who are "soft," or out of condition. After the first few weeks are over, and serious playing has begun, men who have not yet played are not encouraged, or, in extreme cases, even allowed, to play on the "scrub" team; the managers think it inadvisable to run any risks. The players are not only brought to a point of physical condition which makes it a pleasure to watch them; they are taught how to fall, when a fall is inevitable, in such a way as to retain control of the ball without hazarding a broken bone or a dislocation. When the closing games come on, the player can take what seems to the spectator a frightful fall, not only without a bruise, but so skilfully that it is regularly necessary for his opponent to "hold him down" lest he rebound and take to his heels again. The preliminary practice games can hardly be more severe elsewhere than at Princeton; and yet the writer has never seen a serious accident occur there. An accident may occur, of course, and will give no warning of its coming, but its coming has been put as far as possible out of the range of probability. But if men in other colleges wish to play foot-ball, as should be the case, they must not ignore the systematic course of preparation, take the final playing of a well-trained team as a model, and attempt to imitate it. It is from such folly that the recurring accidents in foot-ball come. With good physical condition in the players, the requisite training and suitable grounds, the game is not only one of the best of outdoor sports, but one of the safest.

ST. NICHOLAS also comes freighted as ever, and some of our church societies may thank us for giving from its pages the following:

### THE SUNFLOWER CHORUS.

There was a church festival at Hensonvale, and this is the way in which Miss Belle Abbott introduced a new feature into the well-worn lists of such entertainments.

A placard was prominently displayed at the festival reading:

#### *Something New. Don't Fail to See it.*

All were in mystery until the appointed time, when the manager, stepping before the curtain, spoke of the statue of Memnon, in Egypt, which was accustomed to greet the rising sun with song.

"More obliging than Memnon," he said, "certain stately American sunflowers have been found ready and willing to sing whenever called upon. Ladies and gentlemen," he added, "I have been fortunate enough to secure for our festival a cluster of these remarkable additions to our native flora, and have the honour of presenting to you our Sunflower Chorus."

The slowly drawn curtain revealed on a dark background thirteen large yellow sunflowers, with leaves and stalks complete, and in the centre of each a human face. Music came from the piano near the stage, and to its accompaniment the cluster of human sunflowers