

DR. ANGELL, of Boston, deserves the thanks of the community for the useful hints on the care of our eyes, which he gives in a neat little volume\* of some seventy pages. Though brief, the advice tendered is likely to prove of great benefit in all cases where the services of a surgeon in good repute cannot be instantly obtained. The directions which are to be followed in certain stages of eye disease or accident are explicit, and the character and reputation of Dr. Angell are a guarantee of their value and importance. The booklet deals with its subject most amply, and it is full of useful information regarding weak eyes, near-sightedness, cataract, over-sight, old sight, squint or cross-eye, colour-blindness, babies' sore eyes, the adjusting power of the eyes, &c., &c. We expect this book will accomplish a deal of good.

IN several respects Miss Stebbins' 'Life of Charlotte Cushman'† is a gratifying performance. An intimate friend of the great actress, she has been able to tell us much of the private life and character of Miss Cushman which was inaccessible to any one else. Her book is largely made up of the career of her subject *off* the stage, and the days of her struggles with poverty and her art, are dwelt upon with the faithfulness of a Boswell. Miss Stebbins has let in a good deal of light on the character of her heroine, and her book will have the effect which doubtless she intended it should. Men and women who only knew Charlotte Cushman as a successful actress, whose only knowledge of her was learned before the garish foot-lights of a theatre, will be surprised to learn what an estimable character

she was off the stage, and how many were her social and personal and womanly virtues. Miss Stebbins tells us of her trials and the many hardships she endured before her hopes became realized, and she gained a leading place on the boards. She dwells on the fact that her native city refused recognition of her talents at first, even when she supported Macready so admirably, and only welcomed her to the theatres after London had placed her at the head of her profession. Her life was one of vicissitudes and of varying fortunes, and the biography before us, though written in an atrociously bad and cumbersome style, reveals the true nobility of character of Miss Cushman, who by her own exertions surmounted difficulties which would have appalled many a stouter heart. In places Miss Stebbins is incorrect, and several anachronisms mar her work. She is not well up in theatrical information, and rather too apt to take things for granted. She has not verified a number of the statements which we find in her book, and this is a serious drawback to its ultimate value as a work of reference and as a matter of history. Miss Stebbins' criticisms of Miss Cushman's various performances are quite slight, inadequate, and marked by an entire want of originality. Indeed, in this respect, the book is valueless. Miss Stebbins is totally ignorant of the first rules of criticism. She criticises like one who had never been to a theatre, or who had never witnessed a play. Some of her blunders are merely laughable, while the least which may be said of them is that they are inane. Miss Stebbins is more at home in her estimate of Miss Cushman's character as it appeared to her in her home, and during the days of the firm friendship which for so many years existed between author and actress. Miss Stebbins is quite successful in her sketch of the genealogy of the Cushman family, and indeed in all her per-

\* *How to Take Care of our Eyes, with Advice to Parents and Teachers in regard to the Management of the Eyes of Children*, by HENRY C. ANGELL, M.D. Boston: Roberts Bros. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

† *Charlotte Cushman: Her Letters and Memories of Her Life*. Edited by her friend, EMMA STEBBINS. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co. Toronto: A. Piddington.