

best, and there is no particular virtue, at any rate, in ugliness. Dr. Sykes' "Elementary Composition" is certainly free from reproach on this score, the mechanical work, as might be looked for from its publishers, being of the best, whilst the selections, prose and poetry, on which the instruction is based, make the book attractive in itself, altogether apart from its pedagogical value. The chief space is properly given to rules and exercises in Narrative and Description, but no detail seems to have been overlooked, down even to such hum-drum items as punctuation, capitals, and the proper forms for cheques, notes, business letters and invitations. *Indeed, the book is thoroughly practical, and will prove highly advantageous in both public and high schools, and to anyone, in fact, who wishes to learn how to write the English language effectively.* A table of contents and an index would, however, be an improvement to this excellent manual.

**The Ladies' Home Journal.** *The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.* \$1.00 per annum.

The October number of this ever-welcome monthly is to hand, crowded full of good matter as usual. These four things the Ladies' Home Journal manages to combine—paper and print of the first quality, the artistic touch, a real sense of what people need to know and want to read, and

a high moral tone. It is a good time to order for 1901.

**The Reign of Law.** A Story of the Kentucky Hemp Fields. By James Lane Allen. *The Copp Clark Co., Toronto; 385 pages. Paper 75c, cloth, \$1.25.*

Probably the narrowness and dogmatism of the Kentucky ministers of the sixties has been overdrawn. At any rate, one would suppose the type to be now extinct. Probably, also, the lapse of the whole-souled and true-hearted country lad, fresh at College from the hemp fields and from the reading of his Bible with a relish, is too sudden. Some ballast from the Shorter Catechism would have steadied him. But that the author has added to his previous reputation by this interesting book is undoubted. The very atmosphere of rural life is about one as he reads. The Kentucky hemp fields afford a new theme for description. And the tragedy in humble life for such it is which the book relates—is tellingly set forth.

**The "Post" Self-Filling Fountain Pen.** Plain \$3.00, Gold Band, \$4.00. 120 West 14th Street, New York City.

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