

public schools was explained by Mr. Somerville and very important ideas as to the best methods were advanced. A point strongly emphasized by the speaker was, "the teacher is the living text-book." Practical discussion followed the reading of this interesting paper. Mr. Talbot next favored the meeting with his method of teaching Fourth Book Literature. This subject, like the others, underwent a thorough analysis. Criticisms and opinions were freely expressed and doubtless some were benefited thereby. Mr. McNaughton strongly recommended the teaching of drawing. "Very profitable indeed!" was the verdict of all who were privileged to be present at the fourteenth meeting of the Association. GEORGE BIGELOW, *Secretary*.

REVIEWS.

THE MAKING OF ENGLAND: By John Richard Green, M.A. With Maps, Svo., pp., xx, 434, \$2.50. *Harper and Brothers, N. Y.*

THE CONQUEST OF ENGLAND: By John Richard Green M.A., LL.D. With full Portrait and Maps. Svo., pp. xxvii, 607, \$2.50. *Harper and Brothers, N. Y.*

These are the latest works of one who has won a high, if not the highest, place among English Historians. Of the historian, Freeman says: "Nowhere does Mr. Green's power of painting and narrative come out in greater fullness than in the earlier part of the 'Making of England.' Mr. Green keeps his strength unabated to the end." Under the clearer light which the author throws upon the earlier period of English History, one may "see that the advance of the invaders and the struggles of the Heptarchy" were not mere "battles of kites and crows," but "the birth-throes of our national life." The work is the most interesting that has ever been produced on the period of Eng. History of which it treats, and shows throughout all the author's fascinating charms of style.

The Conquest of England contains passages as brilliant as anything Mr. Green ever wrote. The story of the conquest is told with his usual graphic force; and the work must prove of great value to all students of this part of English History and will be especially suited to those—and they are the many—who can never find time to grapple with the voluminous work of Freeman.

Green's Historical works should be in every school library in the Dominion, and Harpers' is probably the handsomest edition yet published.

A SYSTEM OF RHETORIC: By C. W. BARDEEN. 12mo, pp. cxi, 674, \$1.50. *New York, A. S. Barnes & Co. (Just published.)*

This work is a new departure on the subject of which it treats—and a departure, we venture to say, in the direction of the useful and practical. It is divided into six parts, treating respectively of Sentence-making, Conversation, Letter-writing, The Essay, The Oration, and The Poem. Each of these subjects is treated with considerable fullness, and always in an eminently interesting and suggestive manner. In designating the work as "practical," we do not mean that it ignores principles, but that its explicit statements of principles are accompanied and enforced by striking and interesting examples. There is great force, as every teacher knows, in an apposite example, and it is not too much to say that wit and wisdom have been culled from a wide field of English literature to illustrate the rules and principles given in several parts of the work. The book is written from the "stand-point of one whose daily work it has been for some years to read and select and publish manuscripts, who knows from experience the actual difficulties and faults of young writers and who would like to help them." So says the author; and from a careful examination of his book, we believe that his is an *intelligent* experience, and have not the slightest doubt that he has succeeded in his laudable undertaking "to help" the young student to a mastery of his mother tongue. We heartily recommend this work to every teacher and student of English.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, AND MODERN PEOPLES, with some account of their Monuments, Institutions, Arts, Manners, and Customs, 12mo, pp. xxvi, 600. *A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.*

This is one of Barnes's "Brief History Series," which has met with general approval among teachers in the United States, and to which we called attention in our columns some time ago. "In this work the political history, which occupies most, if not all, of the ordinary school-text, is condensed to the salient and essential facts, in order to give room for some account of the literature, religion, architecture, character and habits of the different nations. Surely it is as important to

know *something* about Plato as *all* about Caesar, to learn how the ancients wrote their books as how they fought their battles; and to study the virtues of the old Germans and the origin of our customs in English home-life, as to trace the squabbles of Alexander's successors or the intricacies of the wars of the Roses. From this may be inferred the general plan of a work which must prove very useful to teachers and students. No intelligent teacher can afford to be ignorant of the matter which this book contains, yet few teachers and still fewer pupils can afford the time to wade through the ponderous terms whence such matter has to be gathered. The value of the work is much increased by the numerous dates in parentheses, the black-board analysis, the pronunciation of the names in the Index, the Genealogical Tables, the Novel Historical Recreations in the Appendix, and especially the choice *Reading References* at the close of each general subject. The teacher as well as the general reader will find this *Brief History a multum in parvo*. We recommend our readers to send for catalogues of A. S. Barnes & Company's excellent school publications.

THE PUPILS' COMPANION: *C. W. Hagar, 697 Broadway, New York.* This is just the thing required for supplementary reading in our schools. The selections are amusing, entertaining, and instructive. Coming weekly it supplies plenty of fresh and healthy reading, such as boys and girls delight in, and is well calculated to foster a taste for good literature. Every teacher should get specimen copies and endeavor to get his pupils to subscribe for the Companion which is only seventy-five cents a year.

WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY. New Edition with Enlarged Supplement and Reference Index. *G. & C. Merriam & Co., Springfield, Mass.*

We welcome cordially an old, valued, and time-honored friend, enlarged in size, improved in appearance, extended in usefulness, and of considerably increased intrinsic worth. The "Unabridged Webster" fully keeps pace with the times. The body of the work remains almost unchanged, but there is a supplement of between four and five thousand new words, or new important meanings of old ones. A specially good feature has also been added to the Appendix, namely, a Biographical Dictionary which contains nearly ten thousand names of important personages, ancient and modern, giving the pronunciation of the name, the nationality, profession, date of birth, and (where deceased) death of each. The regular Dictionary gives the definitions with all relative information, of over 118,000 words, forming an Encyclopædia of Knowledge of the greatest possible utility. The work has about 3,000 pictorial illustrations which readily convey intelligent description through the eye, and there are also four colored plates that are both useful and attractive. The Vocabulary of Fictitious Persons and Places (those that are often referred to in literature and conversation, such as the characters and places mentioned in the works of Dickens, Scott, Shakespeare, etc., locating and describing each) is a special feature in this remarkable work, and a most valuable one for handy reference. As regards the varied and instructive information which abounds within this ample and portly quarto volume of nearly 2000 pages, it seems in this shape like a vast literary store-house where knowledge is laid out to the view in regular order, so that the consulter can, in a moment, reach and obtain a condensed yet exhaustive supply of the choicest and best. Quick and ready reference is secured by means of a useful and ingenious device called Denison's Patent Reference Index, whereby the part required to be opened at can be found instantaneously by a movement of the finger. This new mechanical feature is certainly a vast improvement.

As a rule a Dictionary is a dry book, not often used—at least, not as often as it needs to be—but no one could go through even one page of the "Unabridged Webster" without feeling his mind refreshed by the perusal. For the student, the professional man, the teacher, the school, the family—in fact, for every one who cares to add to his store of knowledge—we consider this splendid work eminently suited, and, as an investment, it is one that re-pays a hundred-fold the cost of it.

WENTWORTH AND HILL'S EXAMINATION MANUALS. No. 1, ARITHMETIC; No. 2, ALGEBRA. *Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co., 1884.*

These handy little volumes contain about 200 examination papers each and are in many respects suited for testing pupils and reviewing the subjects. They supply a fresh list of questions taken from English, French and German sources, and are not too difficult. The answers are printed separately and may be had on application to the publishers. For Entrance and Intermediate work they supply an excellent praxis of about 150 pages each.