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Literary Notes.

Two articles in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* for October will appeal strongly to teachers and others who enjoy the conflicts of science; "The Metric System," a defense by Prof. T. C. Mendenhall against the recent attack of Herbert Spencer, and "The Vivisection Question," by Prof. C. F. Hodge, a concluding article, in which the utility of the practice is set forth. Another paper of special interest to teachers is that by Henry L. Clapp on "The Educative Value of Children's Questioning," which his experience leads him to rate high.

In the *Arena* for October the following topics of living interest are discussed by competent and clever writers—senators, clergymen, professors, editors, and ladies of high literary standing: Silver—a Money Metal; The Religion of Jesus Christ in its Relation to Christendom; Municipal Reform; What the Remonetization of Silver Would Do; How Prince Edward Island Settled its Land Question; Dual Suffrage; The Peril of Encouraging the Persecuting Spirit; Japanese Elements in "The Last Days of Pompeii"; Free Silver v. Free Gold; Three Travelers (a sketch); The Question of Genius; Are our Christian Missionaries in India Frauds?; The Divine Afflatus of the Etruscan Gold Spinners; Soul Evolution; The Future (poem); Between Two Worlds (serial).

The *Atlantic Monthly* for October is one of the most important issues of the year. There is the usual fine literary flavor to the contents, and this is supplemented by timely papers on political, scientific, and historical subjects. The leading article of the month, by President Eliot, of Harvard, is on "Five American Contributions to Civilization," viz., the practice of arbitration instead of war, the increase of wide religious toleration, the safe development of manhood suffrage, the proof that people of a great variety of nations are fit for political freedom, and, fifth, the diffusion of well-being among the population in general. President Eliot holds these five contributions as characteristic of his country, and, in his opinion, they will be held in grateful remembrance by mankind for all time; for they are distinct contributions to civilization. This is a large claim. It is for the reader to judge whether and to what extent it is made good.

A LEADING EDUCATIONIST

Has the following to say of the great Standard Dictionary which we are now offering our readers upon an easy plan of payment.

J. A. McLellan, M. A., LL.D., Principal of "School of Pedagogy," Toronto, a school for the Professional Training of First-class Public School-teachers and High-school Assistants: "I have carefully examined the Standard Dictionary, and compared it with many other dictionaries in my possession with special reference to the points upon which its publishers claim for it a marked superiority over the works now in general use. In my opinion this claim is thoroughly well founded. It would be no easy task to give all the distinguishing features which will make it

My Favorite Dictionary,

but a few of them may be briefly noted.

"(1) The Scientific Alphabet, approved by the foremost orthoepists of England and America, has been used in giving the pronunciation of words.

"(2) Use of Capital Letters.—Only proper names and their derivatives have been printed with capital letters. Every teacher must appreciate this feature.

"(3) Illustrative quotations are in general not the stale selections which have so long served the need of dictionary-makers. English literature from Chaucer to the present time has been ransacked; and not only are the quotations fresh and apposite but the 'chapter and verse' where they may be found and verified are explicitly given.

"(4) The Compounding of words.—The Standard is first among English dictionaries to follow law and order in this important matter. The hap-hazard and inconsistent methods that have so long prevailed are superseded by a system at once simple and scientific.

"(5) Definition, etc.—The most common meaning of a word has been given first, and other meanings follow in the order of usage; obsolescent and obsolete words, and the etymology, being given last. This is a practical improvement that will be highly valued in this busy age.

"(6) Grouping of Cognate Terms.—In the treatment of such words as, e. g., 'agriculture,' 'architecture,' 'apple,' 'biology,' 'coin,' and hundreds of others, there is an explicit reference to all cognate words. The Standard is unique in its perfect handling of this important feature.

"(7) Synonyms and Antonyms.—The lists of synonyms are accurate and full. These are not mere groups of words huddled together, because loosely connected in meaning. There is a careful discrimination and apt illustrations of fine shades of meaning which must greatly aid in the acquisition of a clear, elegant, and energetic style. The antonyms, bringing at once before the mind sharp contrasts in the meanings of words, will contribute much to clearness and definiteness of thought and precision of expression. I am delighted with the excellent treatment of synonyms and antonyms.

"(8) A full appreciation of the characteristics referred to, and many others equally valuable, can be realized only by an examination of the book. As exemplifying some of the points of excellence, attention may be called to a few words, e. g., 'acid,' 'agriculture,' 'agree,' 'agreeable,' 'alike,' 'alive,' 'abandon,' 'axiom,' 'behavior,' 'criminal,' 'duplicate,' 'friendship,' 'egotism,' 'biology'—a list which might be indefinitely extended.

"I feel but little doubt that the Standard Dictionary will be preferred to all others by the teacher, the student, the business man, and the man of letters."

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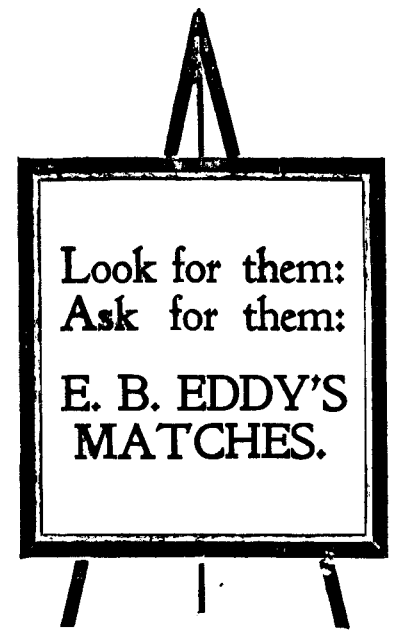
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LITERARY NOTES.—Continued.

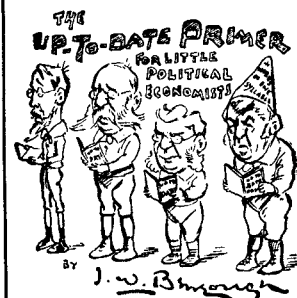
We have received the first two numbers (September and October of *Farming*, a new magazine of about eighty pages, handsomely printed and bound, and copiously illustrated. As the name indicates, *Farming* is devoted entirely to the interests of farmers. These numbers are well filled with matter and illustrations which cannot fail to be of great interest as well as of great service to intelligent farmers and those who are desirous of becoming such, all over the dominion. The magazine is published by the Bryant Press, 20 Bay street, Toronto, and is edited and managed, as many of our readers will be interested in learning, by Mr. J. E. Bryant, M.A., formerly one of our leading High School principals. Mr. Bryant was also the projector and first editor of the *Educational Weekly*, one of the two factors whose product is *The Educational Journal* of to-day. Teachers in the country might render farmers a good service by bringing *Farming* to their notice. Cheap as it is, it bids fair to maintain the position it already claims, as one of the best agricultural periodicals ever published in any country.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell has for many months been gathering material for his romance, "Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker," which is to be the leading serial of *The Century* during the coming year. The novel is a story of the Revolutionary War and of Philadelphia society during the period from 1753 to 1783. The Historical Society of Philadelphia gave Dr. Mitchell free access to its great collections of family letters, deposited in its fire-proof rooms by nearly all the older Philadelphia families—the Shippens, McKeanes, Logans, etc. Among these family archives, with their intimate revelations, and in the old gazettes, Dr. Mitchell found much of his material.

Marion Crawford has written a new story specially for *The Century*. It is called "A Rose of Yesterday," and it will begin in the November number and run for six months. The story opens in Lucerne, and while it is entirely separate in interest, some of the personages that appear in it will be familiar to readers of "Don Orsino."



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