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ing his ship to preserve her from injury. Luckily he was able to raise her in the spring, and after various harrowing adventures, he reached Bristol October 22, 1632. He was well received on his return and appointed to a king's vessel in the Irish Sea, where he did good service. His death occurred in the spring of 1635, and a few weeks later Foxe followed him, being buried at Whitby July 20, 1635.

The present publication is in the usual excellent style of the society, and the editorial contributions of Mr. Christy, if less concise and clear than might be wished, will nevertheless afford a store of useful information to those whose studies lead them to make use of these volumes.

Johnson's Universal Cyclopædia; A New and Enlarged Edition. Charles Kendall Adams, Editor-in-chief; Assisted by a corps of thirty-six Editors, composed of the ablest and most distinguished scholars in the United States, etc. Vols. I.—IV. D. Appleton & Co. 1894.

JOHNSON'S CYCLOPÆDIA was first published in 1874, and was the first small cyclopædia which adopted the plan of many departments with a very eminent specialist at the head of each. There are advantages and disadvantages in such a plan. The great end which it is possible to bring about in that way is a broad and comprehensive view of human knowledge, by men who are able to inform us what is the present state of ideas in their several departments. The great danger lies in a want of unity, proportion, and consistency. Moreover, a large part of the substance of such a work, e. g., the biographies, is not amenable to effective control by specialists. Hence the scientific portions of the original Johnson were much the best, and were peculiarly within the province of the editor, F. A. P. Barnard. In the new edition the Cyclopædia preserves a good deal of its spirit of life, and has been brought up to the times. We must say, however, that the last volume which has appeared, the fourth, while it is an improvement in some respects on those that went before it, is less like the original edition. It is a great mistake to suppose—if anybody does suppose so—that no great literary art is called for in a short cyclopædic article. There is no art in which success requires more peculiar original powers nor a more severe or longer training. It is safe to say there are not thirty real masters of it in this country to-day. But there are 300 contributors to the fourth volume of this Cyclopædia. Some of the least meritorious articles it contains, dreary and antiquated, bear very eminent and deservedly famous names.

Comparing the different departments of the work, if we must select one part as distinctly inferior to any other, it will be logic, which, though written by different hands, is pretty uniformly out of date and feeble. But incomparably the most interesting articles are those relating to linguistics. Those which carry the signature of Prof. Wheeler are all excellent, and there are others which really convey something worth remembering. The legal articles are very clear. The articles on physics are well enough; but there is nothing one will not find everywhere. The mathematics (excepting the debris of former editions) is not nearly so well done as the physics. The biological parts are of various degrees of merit. Some are very learned, others very instructive. The plan of distributing the biography among the thirty-six editors does not work well, especially in the case of living persons. The illustrations, which are confined to wood-cuts in the

text, are of a wide range of merit. The maps will not bear comparison with those of Brockhaus.

This new edition, being in eight volumes and costing \$48, can no longer be reckoned among the small encyclopædias. It has about as much matter as the new edition of 'Brockhaus's Konversations-Lexikon,' in sixteen volumes, and the total price is the same. There is still room for a methodical encyclopædia, not too large to be read through by an industrious person, say, in a year, and readable, withal; a work which should aim to convey information of large truths rather than of minute facts, and which should be written with something like the Peter Parley art, so as to be read with pleasure by old and young—the whole to be the product of not more than half-a-dozen masterly pens.

Victor Hugo après 1852. Par Edmond Biré. Paris: Perrin & Cie.

WE have here the fourth and last volume of M. Biré's *étreintement* or showing-up of Victor Hugo. There is not much left of the great poet, and nothing at all of the man, when M. Biré has done with him. In the brief preface to the present volume, the author tells the story of his work, begun, he states, through admiration of the poet and continued through love of truth. No doubt M. Biré is sincere in thinking and saying that love of truth has alone actuated him, but no reader can be long in coming to the conclusion that M. Biré soon blinded himself to his own motives as thoroughly as Victor Hugo to his. The vindictive animus is too plain, especially in this last volume; the writer plays too evidently the part of *advocatus diaboli*: he takes a savage pleasure in blackening the private character of a man who was the idol of France and is one of her greatest literary glories. He presents his facts and constructs them like a special pleader. He has allowed himself to be drawn, almost unconsciously, into a virulent defaming of a great name under pretext of revealing to the world the true Victor Hugo. It is this virulence of speech, this vindictiveness of purpose, which minimizes the value of the work. That Hugo had many faults, that he was outrageously vain, that he had been a weathercock in politics, a shallow thinker, a follower instead of a leader of men, that his private life was not above reproach, others, more temperate than M. Biré, had already told the world and in a more decorous and convincing manner. That much of Hugo's work is poor, a large part ridiculous, that his drama has, in the main, lost its hold on the public, and that his novels are not models of their kind, able critics have long since fully stated. The fierce light which, in M. Biré's book, beats upon the poet, brings out startlingly every defect of the man and his works, magnifying and even darkening them, and, at the same time, destroying by its glare the real and numerous beauties which these works contain.

Faguet and Morel-Fatio, to name two only, drew sufficient attention to the weak points of Hugo as a writer, a scholar, and a man, and their criticism is on its face unmarked by bitterness. The mass of information collected by M. Biré in his four volumes is of high and undoubted worth—no student of Hugo and of romanticism can afford to ignore it; but it could and should have been presented with impartiality and a just sense of proportion. M. Biré quotes an approving notice of his first volume, 'Victor Hugo avant 1830,' by M. Brunetière, but in his method of quoting he sins

precisely as Hugo sinned, for he says nothing of the qualifying remarks of the great critic, and he makes no mention whatever of M. Brunetière's admirable review of the next two volumes, 'Victor Hugo après 1830,' which was published in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* of October, 1891. Nevertheless, students of French literature are indebted to M. Biré for the information he has supplied, which will enable them better to understand and appreciate the work of Hugo. Bearing in mind the reservations which must absolutely be made in reading this volume, as well as the three preceding ones, there is large profit to be had from the series.

Slav and Moslem. By J. Milliken Napier Brodhead. Aiken, S. C.: Aiken Publishing Co.

THE natural inference from the title of this work would be that it dealt with the relations of the Russian and Turkish Empires, with possible side glances at the difficult questions connected with the Balkan Peninsula. The reader who begins it with any such delusion will be severely disappointed. It is a hotch-potch of Russian history, with no excuse for existence. Large slices of Rambaud's 'History of Russia' are copied and juxtaposed in a manner which amply deserves the inelegant term higgledy-piggledy; the result being often that events are wrenched out of their connection and hurled into impossible attitudes a hundred years or more away. Writers upon Russia of the most miscellaneous description have been drawn upon with little discrimination, and their utterances have been combined in the most bewilderingly incoherent, crazy-quilt pattern, both as to chronology and correlation, which it has ever been a fortune to witness. Nearly every proposition in the book is spelled wrong, and there is no uniformity of spelling, even in such ordinary words as Czar, Tzar, Byzance, Byzantium; while grossly careless errors like "Herzegovonia" are lamentably frequent. Every time that the writer "Stepniak" is referred to, what the author supposes to be his real name is supplied in parenthesis, and is always wrongly spelled. It is time that the public understood that Prof. Dragomanoff and "Stepniak" are not identical. The blame cannot be laid on the printers, though the proof-reading is as remarkable as the rest, and though the punctuation is of so extraordinary a character that Lord Timothy Dexter's plan of having none in the body of the book and a large assortment at the end seems preferable.

A Student's Text-Book of Botany. By Sidney H. Vines, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Sherardian Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford. First Half. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; New York: Macmillan. 8vo, pp. x, 430.

ABOUT fifteen years ago there was published, under the supervision of Prof. Vines, an English translation of Prof. Prantl's 'Lehrbuch der Botanik,' an elementary text-book which had already met with considerable success in Germany. When it became necessary to revise this translation, it appeared best to Prof. Vines to increase the matter of the book considerably, so "that while retaining all that has made it of value to beginners, it might be more useful to those engaged in the advanced study of the science." The result is, that in this first half the portions covering 130 pages in the edition of 1881 have been rewritten and augmented until they have come to occupy 430 pages. Consequently, while the general