

In No. 119 of the "Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études," M. Gabriel Monod begins what promises to be the best critical introduction in existence to the sources of the Carolingian period, in continuation of similar studies of the Merovingian sources in the same series. In this first part he is concerned with the Carolingian annals to 829, dealing mainly with their dependence upon one another, and their sources of information. M. Monod considers all the important theories of his predecessors in the same field, furnishing a most useful guide to the literature of the subject, and gives, though never at great length, the results of his own studies, which are characterized by all his well-known moderation and sound common sense. Of 175 pages, 60 are given to the great "Annales Laurissenses majores," and 60 to two introductory chapters, which will be found of general interest, one on the general characteristics of the Carolingian historiography, and the other on the Carolingian renaissance. Perhaps M. Monod's most interesting suggestion is that the common features of the annals may be due not to their dependence on the work of some predecessor, but to their borrowing from a kind of circular letter which he supposes may have been sent out to inform the annalists of important events.

Several years ago, Prof. Du Bois-Reymond of the University of Berlin published a discussion of the principles of art from a physiological point of view, in which he maintained that the delineations of centaurs and other monsters, whose organisms violate the laws of nature, and can therefore have no real existence, are mythopoetic aberrations of the fancy, in which the modern artist should not indulge. Of the same general character is "Die Schönheit des weiblichen Körpers," recently issued by the Stuttgart publisher, Ferdinand Encke. The author, Dr. C. H. Stratz, is a physiologist and physician, and points out some curious pathognomonic symptoms in types of female beauty in famous works of art. Thus, according to his diagnosis, the celebrated Venus of Botticelli in the Uffizi at Florence shows unmistakable signs of consumption, and ought not to be sailing naked in an open shell across the sea. A modern example of the same kind is furnished by Franz Stuck's "Expulsion from Paradise," exhibited at Munich in 1891, in which peculiarly crooked limbs, enlarged joints, and depressed ribs of our common mother indicate that she had suffered severely from rickets in her childhood. Still another instance cited is the Aphrodite in Klein's "Judgment of Paris," whose bodily formation proves that rachitis must have prevailed in the abode of the Grecian deities as well as in Eden before the fall. Our author thinks the only remedy for such lapses is for artists to study pathology as well as anatomy. He also gives some sensible advice to women concerning the cultivation of beauty on hygienic principles.

Ludwig Günther of Stettin publishes a German translation of Kepler's "Somnium," a study of how astronomy would appear upon the moon (Leipzig: Teubner). The name of Günther (probably identical in origin with Gonthier, the family name of the Schwartzburgs) is already represented in science half-a-dozen times over, without counting the English Edmund Gunter. We are glad to make a new acquaintance worthy of the family. Prof. Sigismund Günther of Munich is a learned and delightful writer on

the history of the mathematical sciences. He has sometimes been accused of too great originality, but Herr Ludwig altogether surpasses him in a title-page which is "ein genaues Faksimile" of the original edition of the "Somnium," except that it is somewhat reduced, and except that it is translated from Latin into German! If the volume had no other interest, it would be worth getting for a remarkable portrait of Kepler, looking much more mathematical and less witty than Nordling's, which, however, Kepler himself said was not a good likeness. That is beetle-browed; this has a low, retreating forehead. The nose, cheeks, and hair leave no doubt that this really is Kepler, and it is impossible to resist the conviction that it is a likeness. It is dated 1610, the year after the publication of the "De motibus stellae Martis," when Kepler was in Prague.

The brood of daintily printed literary and semi-political journals which came into being like so many butterflies a few years ago in this country, has, in spite of some failures, been reinforced of late. Such is *In Lantern-Land*, a monthly quarto, edited at Hartford, Conn., by Charles Dexter Allen, author of a well-known work on "American Book-plates." The fifth number, for April 1, contains a book-plate on a separate supplementary leaf. It comments on current topics, reviews books, deals with current fine art and the drama, and has at least the merit of serious intent. Another venture, *La Crème* (Boston: Charles E. Brown & Co.), is a 16mo in paper covers, each issue containing a single story. The first, for March 31, gives Kipling's "My Lord the Elephant," plus his "Recessional" and "Vampire."

The principal article in the *National Geographic Magazine* (Washington) for April is an account, by W. D. Wilcox, of two expeditions, in 1896 and 1898, to the sources of the Saskatchewan. Considerable danger was experienced in the first from an extensive forest fire, and in the second, which was in October, from the snow which fell on thirteen of the seventeen days in which the explorer was out. The scenery, of which several fine illustrations are given, is "remarkably grand, and unending in variety of mountain forms so long as the valleys are the point of view"; but from high summits it is somewhat monotonous on account of the uniformity in height of the thousands of mountains visible. The forests which clothe them up to 7,000 feet "are chiefly of Engelmann's spruce and balsam fir, with occasional areas of jack pine." Mr. Wilcox attributes no small measure of his success to the splendid qualities of his pack-horses. An interesting note is communicated by Mr. W. H. Dall on a harpoon-head obtained from a whale in Bering Sea which may have carried it at least thirty-six years. It bore the private marks of the *Montezuma*, once a British man-of-war, then a New Bedford whaler, and finally one of the "stone fleet" sunk in Charleston harbor during the Civil War.

The *Annales de Géographie* for March contains the introductory lecture of Prof. Vidal de la Blache of the University of Paris on the physical geography of France. Among the other articles is an historical sketch of the colonization of the provinces of Ufa and Orenburg in Eastern Russia, and an account of the Jewish and German agricultural colonies in Palestine. There are fourteen of the former, with 4,220 inhabitants, who have not succeeded yet as farmers, but make excellent

gardeners and cultivators of the grape. Their wine sells in the European markets for four times as much as that made by the Germans. These number 1,500, all but 400 of whom are of the sect of the Templars, founded in 1868. They support themselves by both farming and grape-growing, and by pursuing various trades. The rector of the Jesuit College near Shanghai contributes a short note on the recent geographical and other scientific work of his society in China. These include explorations of the Yangtse River, collections of natural history, meteorological and astronomical observations, and the preparation of a "Chinese encyclopedia, accepted officially by the Government, for the scientific education of young China [*la jeune Chine*]."

The principal topics treated in *Petermann's Mitteilungen*, No. 2, are the geology of southwestern Hayti, and the Siberian district of Anadyr in extremest northeastern Asia. The products of Anadyr include coal and probably sulphur. Its Russian inhabitants number about 500, and have a high character for industry, temperance, morality, peaceableness, and "an ideal honesty." They are profoundly melancholy, however; social pleasures, sports, dancing, and singing, being unknown among them. There are also shorter notices of the Nicaragua and Panama Canals, of the changes on the Netherland coast in 1897, and of the distribution of Danes and Germans in northern Schleswig, with a map. In supplemental No. 127 Dr. Carl Sapper treats of the geology, hydrography, orography, and surface soil of northern Central America, the result of observations made during the years 1888-1897. Three large maps and twenty-five geological profiles accompany the paper.

The special features of the April Bulletin of the Boston Public Library are lists of books and documents added to the statistical department, and of works relating to baths, gymnasia, and the labor movement in England and America. The additions to the Brown musical library and to the Garrison collection of anti-slavery MSS. are also noteworthy.

The twenty-third annual report of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts shows that the year 1898 was one of great prosperity for that institution. Bequests aggregating over a million dollars are recorded, and there is evidence of gratifying growth in every department included in the museum. It is in the field of ancient art that the acquisitions of the year have been most extensive. The report of the curator of classical antiquities fills seventy-six pages, and deals with nearly four hundred objects, chiefly original specimens of the minor arts of ancient Greece and Italy—small bronzes, engraved gems, articles of jewelry, painted vases, and the like. Not less noteworthy than the extent of these acquisitions is their high quality. Such a record is without a parallel in this country, and Boston is yearly exercising, by virtue of the policy of its museum, a more and more potent attraction upon American students and lovers of Greek art.

Tommaso Corsini, President of the "Association for the Protection of Ancient Florence," has recently been presented with a written address, congratulating him on the success already attending the efforts of his society, but urging yet greater earnestness in the accomplishment of its purpose. To this paper are affixed ten thousand signatures, among which are the names of princes, a

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