

Anglo-Saxon quality shot through it, and it is full of a precision in observation and realism in description which continually remind one of Chaucer. In view of this, and of the brisk energy of the whole story, it is peculiarly suited to college reading, and Miss Banks is to be thanked for presenting it in a form so convenient and pleasant. The editing, as a whole, is sound and intelligent. It might have been worth while to discriminate the place of the poem in the Arthurian cycle a little more closely, or, at least, to abstract from Sommer's exhaustive discussion of that point. Particularly good are the scattered notes suggesting the cogent influence of alliteration over the association of names in myth and legend; but it is hard to believe with Miss Banks that the pervasive notion of the fondness-of-giants-for-the-flesh-of-young-children arose wholly from the similarity in sound of *barn* (child) and *bar* (boar). The vocabulary is the least satisfactory section of the book.

'Elements of Statistics,' by Arthur L. Bowley (P. S. King & Son), is clearly intended for the advanced student, or for one intending to prepare for an examination for entrance into the British public service. The work of Bertillon, however many its merits, was written with the French administrative system in view, and could be of little service outside of France as an introduction to statistics. Mr. Bowley's work suffers from the same limitations, and the Labor Department of the Board of Trade is the main objective of the leading chapters. The schedules of that Department are analyzed, the resulting tables criticised, and most of the examples are taken from reports on wages. This is unfortunate, for wage statistics are notoriously elusive, and even the best are open to grave objections. More than the inherent difficulties in the way of obtaining good results stands the serious neglect shown to this branch of inquiry in the United States, where no two States pursue the same methods. It is to be feared, therefore, that Mr. Bowley's studies will not receive the attention they merit. Upon the subject of averages, index-numbers, and the theory of probability applied to statistics the book is full, and shows that the author is familiar with the most recent work of Pearson, Edgeworth, and others in these lines of investigation. The numerous diagrams included are suggestive and valuable. Yet it is not a book for the beginner, however necessary to the student.

One of the more pretentious of the recent books for the gardener is a bulky volume by Mr. John Weathers, F.R.H.S., from the press of Longmans, Green & Co. The author has endeavored to produce a book sufficiently complete to be of substantial use to the professional gardener as well as to the amateur. The volume opens with a non-technical discussion of the life history of the plant, its methods of reproduction, and the nature and care of the soil. A consideration of the flower garden follows, with lists of varieties best fitted for various situations. The main body of the work is devoted to an exhaustive enumeration of the plants known to horticulture in so far as they are hardy out of doors in Great Britain. Accompanying the account of each species are brief directions for its culture and propagation. This feature of the book is one of decided value, since we here find brought together in a convenient compass the most important information about plants from all parts of the globe.

While a few particulars regarding American plants are hardly correct as they stand, the information is, generally speaking, well chosen and fairly accurate.

'A Handy Book of Horticulture' is the title of a small book recently issued by E. P. Dutton & Co. and John Murray, London. The author, the Rev. F. C. Hayes, Lecturer in Horticulture in Alexandra College, Dublin, discusses in an attractive way the problems that present themselves to those who are beginning to study garden-making, and in untechnical language answers many of the questions that are sure to puzzle the beginner. Advice is given concerning the choice of varieties for different situations and the kind of care needed to insure the desired results. The author suggests methods of handling not only the ornamental but also the useful part of the garden. Although written by and for a resident in a British climate, the greater part of the book would prove almost equally useful to amateurs in America.

Another recent book on gardening, which deals with the raising of vegetables only, is by Prof. Bailey of Cornell University. The materials and appliances used by the gardener are discussed, and directions are given for their care and use; advice, too, concerning the kind of soil best adapted for each crop, how the seed should be sown, the plants be cared for, and how best to harvest and market or store the crop. This latest number of the Rural Science Series (Macmillan Co.) is an attractive addition to the list of Bailey's garden books.

M. Emile Boutmy, of the Institute of France, presents in a small volume three obituary essays on men of unequal merit and reputation, Taine, Scherer, Laboulaye (Paris: Armand Colin). The circumstances under which these papers were originally written involved some sacrifice of critical spirit in favor of eulogy, thus giving to Laboulaye a measure of importance somewhat difficult to ratify. How many readers of the present generation know 'Paris en Amérique' or 'Le Prince Caniche'? The study of Scherer dwells chiefly on the moral struggle between reason and faith which resulted in skepticism and (fortunately for literature) determined a critical career. As regards Taine, little is here added to what the world already knows concerning his intellectual life and its influence, but a few discreet remarks confirm the conviction that, with his death, his few intimates lost the privilege of intercourse with a charming personality.

The tendency towards broad generalizations is somewhat too obvious in M. Pierre de Coubertin's last volume on educational theory, 'Notes sur l'Éducation Publique' (Paris: Hachette). In view of the rising tide of democracy, the author holds that certain concessions must be made to suit the immediate practical demands of the next generation or two—chiefly in the reduction of formal study for the sake of knowledge bearing on active life, and of better equipment in the direction of physical culture. The chapters dealing with the last question, being written from minute and special observation, are not only the most interesting, but the most serviceable in the book. Such topics as the education of women and the place of art in educational training, here rapidly dealt with each in a single chapter, are too complex to be disposed of so summarily.

A further excellent addition to the specimens from great writers ('Pages Choieses,' Armand Colin) comes to hand in volumes on Joseph de Maistre, Stendhal, and Turgeneff. Of the introductions the most complete and thorough is that on De Maistre by H. Potez; it explains clearly the grounds of the philosopher's reactionary absolutism, and pays the usual tribute to the austere integrity of his character. It might not, however, be difficult to show that De Maistre's theocratic system is frequently less coherent and consistent than most of his critics seek to make out. In all three cases the extracts are judiciously chosen.

The second volume of Nova Scotia Archives contains a reprint of official letters and documents covering the years 1713-1741. They are interesting for the light they throw upon the manner in which an isolated province inhabited by French and Indians was governed by a handful of Englishmen. The most noteworthy of these governors, however, was not an Englishman, but Paul Mascarene, an exiled Huguenot, and his numerous letters show not only the difficulties of his delicate position, but also the wisdom and firmness with which he ruled his turbulent fellow-countrymen, the "habitans." The editor, Prof. A. M. Macmechan, has contributed a large number of explanatory notes and an excellent index. There is also a plan of the fort of Annapolis Royal in 1710.

An organization which started up in Philadelphia, but which is rapidly extending its work over the larger cities of the Union, and which has the not very happily chosen name of "The Book-Lovers' Library," undertakes to do for readers of books what the circulating libraries fail to do—to furnish service; that is, to deliver books (in neat and fresh condition) every week at everybody's door. One will thus get his ample allowance of reading matter, at least so far as the newer books are concerned, with as little trouble as he (or rather she) now gets the family dinner sent home, or the family shopping. The venture is already very successful, and there is no doubt that it meets a want that will grow by what it feeds on. It is a curious question whether it will have the tendency to increase the size of editions of the popular books by increasing largely, as it is sure to do, the number of those who read them, or to diminish it, by enabling the people who would have read a given book anyway to get on without the trouble of buying it.

The catalogue of the Rawlinson manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, of which two volumes appeared some time since, has been completed by the addition of two more volumes of entries and one of index. The papers listed in volumes 3 and 4 are of a miscellaneous character, with theology and politics occupying chief place. Of special collections, those of Thomas Hearne, Sir Thomas Browne, and the Rawlinson family are most extensive. There are a large number of Italian historical tracts, and instructions to papal ambassadors in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Among items of special interest we note lists of the members of twenty-nine livery companies of London, in or about 1650; a life of St. Thomas More, by Nicholas Harpsfield; a collection of 128 state papers, mainly warrants and letters to Percy, King Charles's general of artillery in the Civil War; the journal of the Earl of Sunderland during his diplomatic mission to Vienna, in 1706;

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