

hints which they furnish of his literary ambitions and those of his contemporaries. Moreover, as one gets better acquainted with Petrarch, it becomes apparent that his conduct belied the semi-monastic conception of life to which he pays so much respect.

Among the really genuine expressions of feeling which have been included in the present collection, none is nobler than the old scholar's reply to his friend Boccaccio, who was urging him to spare his declining strength: "Constant work and application are the life of my soul. When you see me less eager and longing for rest, you may be sure that I am soon to die. . . . You would like me to give up reading and writing; but, far from trying me, they are a pleasant recreation, and delight me after greater hardships—nay, they even make me forget these." "Nulla calamo," he concludes, "agilior est sarcina, nulla jucundior; voluptates illæ fugiunt et micendo lædunt, calamus et in manus sumptus mulect et depositus delectat, ac prodest non domino suo tantum sed aliis multis sepe etiam absentibus, nonnunquam et posteris post annorum millorum."

The Theory of Optics. By Paul Drude. Translated from the German by C. Riborg Mann and Robert A. Millikan. Longmans, Green & Co. 1902. Svo, pp. xxi, 546.

This is a thoroughly modern text-book, not a handbook, of its subject. The fact that it carries a preface by Professor Michelson is a sufficient assurance of its scientific character. As any really to-day's treatise on any branch of general physics must do, it supposes an elementary acquaintance with the calculus; and its pages bristle with equations which signify hard work for the reader and full compensation therefor. Descriptions of instruments and statements of experimental results are summary, not to say skeletal.

Still, the essentials are given. As a matter of course, optics is here treated as a branch of the theory of electricity. The work consists of four parts (which nobody can suspect a German professor of simply numbering consecutively) — the first, on geometrical optics; the second, on the phenomena of light treated in the general manner of Fresnel; the third, on the electrical theory and the optical characters of crystals, metals, etc.; the fourth, on radiation. The assignment of one principal part to radiation is a mark of modernity; and the distribution of space among the four parts is significant. Taking the second part, which is a trifle under 150 pages, as a standard of comparison, the geometrical part is three-fourths as long, the electrical part is half as long again as the second, the discussion of radiation one-third of the same unit. The book is not at all overloaded, like so many German books; nor is there any undue partiality to any particular topic. The matter is judiciously selected, and contains nothing more than ought to be familiar to everybody whose business or amusement it is to be acquainted with the theory of optics. The fault, if there be any, is rather in the omission of interesting topics. The student will derive from it all the pleasure that there is in the sense that one's thoughts are guided by a master-mind.

As Seen from the Ranks. By Charles E. Benton. Putnam's.

Sober narratives of our civil war confined to personal experience are always welcome. Such a one is that named above. The author, a minor, enlisted October, 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Fiftieth New York Volunteers, and was assigned to the regimental band. In that humble capacity he served until the close of the war, nearly three years later. The regiment guarded Baltimore, took part in Gettysburg, camped on the Rapidan, marched and fought from Chattanooga to Atlanta, Savannah, and Bentonville, and participated in the Grand Review. It was a wide experience for a home-keeping youth. As usual with bandsmen then, he was detailed for duty in the field hospitals when battles were in progress, and he became most humanly interested in the care of the wounded. The little sketch-book records without gasconade the particulars of a soldier's life. It notes without exaggeration the appearance of a fought-over field, the details of an extemporized hospital maintained without premeditation for months, the incidents of life in camp and on the march, the sensation of being under unaccustomed fire, and the indifference to it that is bred of familiarity, the aspects of foraging in Georgia and of building corduroy roads in the Carolinas. The author rarely goes beyond what he has seen; and, with reserve unusual in the irresponsible, expresses few opinions upon generalship, although it is true that he does not approve of McClellan's course after Antietam nor of Meade's at Falling Waters. The only recital not familiar to survivors of the war is, within our reading, so exceptional that, while suspecting it based on misinformation, we quote it entire for authoritative denial or confirmation. On the march from Savannah to Raleigh, Mr. Benton found, among "oases of plantations" in the cypress swamps, one that "had been devoted to the overseer told us—to raising slave children for market. There were nearly 300 slave women and a dozen or two slave men about the place" (p. 256). A few minor errors catch the eye: A corporal of the guard, not the color sergeant, lowers the flag at retreat (p. 6); Littleton, Pa., should be Littlestown (p. 61); "Jeb" Stuart of cavalry renown was not a member of the Steuart family of Baltimore, whose estate sheltered the hospital first known as the Steuart's Mansion, but later as the Jarvis (p. 12); and the South did not have more West Pointers than the Government (p. 41), but it made better use of those it had. Mr. Benton's reminiscences revive in a most amiable way what the war meant to the rank and file, and teach later generations that its glories had shadows as well as lights, but that those who sustained the Government by arms did so cheerfully and with intelligence, regardless of the hardships of the way.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

A Book of Old English Ballads. With an accompaniment of decorative drawings by George Wharton Edwards and an introduction by Hamilton W. Mable. Macmillan. \$1.25.
Aldrich, T. B. A Sea Turn and Other Matters. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.
Allen, E. T. The Western Hemlock. Washington: Government Printing Office.
Bates, Katharine L., and Gosman, Katharine. English History Told by English Poets. Macmillan. 80c.

Bell, R. H. The Worth of Words. With an introduction by W. C. Cooper. Grafton Press.
Bénon, Charles, and Monod, G. Medieval Europe, from 800 to 1270. (Translated by Mary Sloan; revised by G. H. Adams, H. Holt & Co. \$1.00.)
Benson, Bernard. The Study and Criticism of Italian Art. Second Series. London: George Bell & Sons; New York: Macmillan. 10s. 6d.
Bosart, Walter, and Milton, G. B. (1) Westminster; (2) The Strand District. (3) Chelsea. [The Fascination of London Series.] London: Adam & Charles Black; New York: Macmillan. 82 cents each.
Blake, Bass. A Lady's Honor: A Chronicle of Events in the Time of Marlborough. (Town and Country Library.) D. Appleton & Co. \$1.
Blessing-Eyster, Nellie. A Chinese Quaker. Fleming H. Revell Co.
Blot, Wilhelm. Denkwürdigkeiten des Generals Franz Sigel, aus den Jahren 1848 und 1849. Mannheim: J. Bensheimer. 1m. 80pf.
Bolen, G. L. The Plain Facts as to the Trusts and the Tariff. Macmillan.
Bolton, G. K. Letters of Hugh Earl Percy from Boston and New York, 1774-1778. Boston: Charles E. Goodspeed. \$4.
Brady, C. T. In the Wasp's Nest. Scribners. \$1.50.
Briggs, C. A. The Incarnation of the Lord: A Series of Sermons. Scribners.
Bunker, Alonzo. Soo Thuh. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.
Burnham, Clara L. The Right Princess. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
Byrne, Mary A. The Little Woman in the Spout. The Seaford Pub. Co. 60c.
Cairns, F. W. Two Wilderness Voyages. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.50.
Carling, J. R. The Shadow of the Czar. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
Cartwright, Julia. Jean François Millet: His Life and Letters. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; New York: Macmillan. \$3.00.
Chambers, R. W. The Maid-at-Arms. Harpers. \$1.50.
Charles, R. H. The Book of Judges, or the Little Genesis. London: Adam & Charles Black; New York: Macmillan. \$5.25.
Christopher, E. B. The Invisibles. The Seaford Pub. Co. \$1.50.
Comwell, Anna O. Atala: A Poetic Dramatization of the Works of Chateaubriand. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.
Cope, Orelip. Rich and Poor in the New Testament. Macmillan. \$1.50.
Crockett, S. R. The Banner of Blue. McClure, Phillips & Co.
Crockett, W. S. The Scott Country. London: Adam & Charles Black; New York: Macmillan. \$2.
Cubberley, E. P. Syllabus of Lectures on the History of Education. Macmillan. \$2.25.
Cuyler, Rev. T. L. Help and Good Cheer. The Baker & Taylor Co. \$1.
Davidson, A. F. Alexandre Dumas (Père): His Life and Works. London: Archibald Constable & Co.; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.75.
Davis, R. B. Captain Macklin: His Memoirs. Scribners. \$1.50.
Dickson, Marguerite S. From the Old World to the New: How America was Found and Settled. Macmillan. 50 cents.
Donner, H. M. English Lyrics of a Finnish Harp. Boston: Richard G. Badger.
Du Chailly, Paul. King Momo. Scribners. \$1.50.
Ellis, J. B. The Holland Wolves. Chicago: A. McClurg & Co.
Everett, G. C. The Psychological Elements of Religious Faith. Macmillan. \$1.25.
Fedor, Karl. Dante and his Times. McClure, Phillips & Co.
Fitz-John, New France and New England. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.05.
Foote, J. C. Edgewood Echoes. Boston: Easters Forslund, Louise. The Ship of Dreams. Harpers. \$1.50.
Foster, Mabel G. The Heart of the Doctor: A Story of the Italian Quarter. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
Fraser, J. F. The Real Siberia: together with an Account of a Dash through Manchuria. D. Appleton & Co. \$2.
Gaston, C. R. Shakespeare's As You Like It. Macmillan. 25 cents.
Glovatski, Alexander. The Pharaoh and the Priest. (Translated by Jeremiah Curtin.) Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
Gower, R. S. Sir Joshua Reynolds: His Life and Art. (The British Artists' Series.) London: George Bell & Sons; New York: Macmillan. \$3.
Gunby, A. A. Colonel John Gunby of the Maryland Line. Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Co.
Hadley, H. H. The Blue Badge of Courage. The Seaford Pub. Co. \$1.25.
Hall, Ruth. A Downreiter's Son. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.
Harrison, Frederic. John Ruskin. (English Men of Letters.) Macmillan.
Heath, Lillian M. Eighty Good Times Out of Doors. Fleming H. Revell Co. 75c.
Heller, L. R. Early American Orations, 1700-1824. Macmillan.
Henty, G. A. With Kitchener in the Sudan. Scribners. \$1.20.
Henty, G. A. The Treasure of the Incas. Scribners. \$1.20.
Henty, G. A. With the British Legion. Scribners. \$1.50.
Herrick, Christine T. In City Tents: How to Find, Furnish, and Keep a Small Home on Sienler Means. G. P. Putnam's Sons.
Higginson, H. L. Four Addresses. Boston: D. B. Updike.
Hill, Lucy A. Marlon's Experiences. Educational Pub. Co.
Hobbes, J. O. Love and the Soul-Hunters. Funk & Wagnalls Co. \$1.50.
Hobbes, J. O. Tales About Temperaments. Appleton & Co. \$1.
Holbrook, R. T. Dante and the Animal Kingdom. The Columbia University Press (Macmillan).
Holbrook, Florence. A Dramatization of Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha, for School and Home Theatricals. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 15 cents.
Hooker, Katharine. Wayfarers in Italy. Scribners. \$3.

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