

Society of Boston, is justified by the beauty of print and paper, and by the illustrations specially prepared by Howard Pyle. A chatty preface by Dr. Garnett gives some information on Dibdin's rather sad career, and glances at the shortcomings of his character. More practical is Mr. W. P. Cutter's account of the prices paid for rarities in recent years, showing the rapid, though not always intelligible, rise in values. It is a pity that this essay could not have a wider circulation, for it is an interesting record of an extraordinary progress in the value of certain classes of books. Mr. Cutter is bold enough to announce a "law" on the values of books, but it is rather a tendency that he describes than a law.

Mr. George Thomas Ritchie of the Library of Congress has compiled a 'List of Lincolniana' in that Library, and the result is a volume of seventy-five pages. Magazine articles are not included—a wise exclusion, in our opinion—but some newspaper clippings are; a rather dubious proceeding, though justifiable perhaps in the case of a special scrapbook. The list is rather sombre in tone, because so large a part of Lincoln matter is composed of addresses on his death; but we are reminded of another aspect of the man in the joke and song-books, a catechism, and other campaign issues, often scurrilous. The list is printed by the Library of Congress.

'Thomas Gainsborough,' by Arthur B. Chamberlain (London: Duckworth & Co.; New York: Dutton), is a fairly good piece of work, but is far from attaining the standard of the better books in its series, "The Popular Library of Art." To that series we have been accustomed to look for real criticism and an original point of view, and we cannot readily be satisfied with the negative virtues of a volume with which we have, after all, no positive fault to find.

The latest volume of another series, William Bayne's 'Wilkie' in 'The Makers of British Art' (London: The Walter Scott Publishing Co.; New York: Scribner's), is acceptable enough as far as biography alone is concerned, but its author's rather phenomenal ignorance of painting leads to great vagueness as to what it is all about. Indeed, a writer who is capable of speaking of "the gems of painting and sculpture, as seen in the productions of Michael Angelo, Titian, and Cimabue," or of calling Correggio "the great Venetian," had best refrain from all topics even remotely connected with art.

'The Life of John C. Calhoun: Being a View of the Principal Events of his Career and an Account of his Contributions to Economic and Political Science,' by Gustavus M. Pinckney of the Charleston, S. C., Bar, has appeared from the press of Walker, Evans, Cogswell Co., in that city. It is a small volume of some 250 pages. Perhaps one-half the space is devoted to lengthy quotations from the speeches and letters of Calhoun. It would have been well if all of it could have been used in this way; for the best that can be said for the author is that he is an indiscriminating admirer of Calhoun, and that he has the courage of what one must call his emotions. One learns that Calhoun was the greatest statesman, the profoundest political philosopher, the soundest financier, the most brilliant debater, the most successful

prophet, the best man; and so on, *ad nauseam*. Apparently there were a few able men before his time, but none at all since. We are, generally speaking, as Carlyle might have said, seventy millions—mostly fools. Mr. Pinckney despairs of our ever being anything else. The evidence of it, precisely, is in the fact that the "protection humbug" still flourishes, and no one seriously considers the necessity of providing for nullification by Constitutional amendment. The suffrage and nullification are the two main supports of liberty; the Revolution furnished one, Calhoun showed us the way to the other. Still, blind as bats, we go blundering on, and so far from providing against the evil days, no one can be got even to listen to a discussion of the subject. The question of nullification, far from being academic, is as open as ever it was, etc. The book is harmless and useless; it is the sort of product one naturally expects from a specialist who attempts in a foreign field something for the accomplishment of which he is not at all fitted.

Mr. Clement F. Rogers's monograph on 'Baptism and Christian Archaeology' (Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Henry Frowde) has been taken as "an offprint" from *Studia Biblica*, whereof it is part iv. of volume v. It is the fruit of a careful and apparently impartial study of this department of Christian antiquities, and has many illustrations from early and medieval frescoes. These would seem to support the author's conclusion (p. 304) that the early custom was "the pouring of water over the candidate's head by the Bishop" (why need it be a bishop?), "or the guiding his head under a descending stream, followed by the laying on of hands." At first, baptism, like everything else, was largely in the open; this continued in Syria till the fifth century at least, and would naturally have been in running or standing water. When churches were built and freely used, fonts came in with their other furnishings. One would prefer to think that the early Church exercised ordinary common sense in not being wedded to a given amount of water for this purpose, nor to a fixed shape and size of the vessel (if any) containing it; and since the documents confirm this supposition, let them have all due weight, in view of the question so long pending between sprinkling and immersion. But when did evidence ever settle a religious controversy?

A handsomely printed volume of nearly five hundred pages, rich in illustrations, is Miss Katharine M. Abbott's 'Old Paths and Legends of New England' (G. P. Putnam's Sons). Some of the views are admirable, for instance that of the Munroe Tavern, Lexington, 1695, where Lord Percy had his headquarters. The text, which is animated and entertaining, preserves a due regard for historical accuracy. In these days when the step seems so easy from the snap of a camera to the page engraving, it is fortunate if your bookmaker has a refined taste and some literary skill. Miss Abbott displays more than this, and possesses the gift of lending, through the power of happy description, a new charm to scenes long familiar to the reader. The author loves the theme of which she discourses. If we must needs find a little fault, it is that Chastellux more than once is quoted, and words are stricken out of his sentences with no mark to denote the

omission—a liberty that had best not be taken. That Christopher Hussey, the old settler of Hampton, appears as "Hervey," may be charged to the proofreader; but what does Miss Abbott mean when, after speaking of Daniel Webster as a youth, at Exeter, she goes on in the next sentence to say, "An acquisition to the Academy is the celebrated *Puritan Girl* by Martha Hale" (p. 254)?

Charles Protheroe's 'Life in the Mercantile Marine' (John Lane) is a routine sea story, one of scores which are being printed to invest with melancholy the disappearance from the seas of square-rigged deep-water sailing ships. It is difficult to determine for what class of readers this book is intended—possibly boys, for whom tales of the ocean have unending fascination. It is hardly ripe enough for mature minds. The narrative covers a period before the advent of steamers in the trade between England and New Zealand. With their coming, the interest is transferred to cruises in the South Seas.

Dr. F. A. C. Perrine's work entitled 'Conductors for Electrical Distribution' appears to have left few problems pertaining to its subject untouched, however minute they may be—from the most economical way of transferring bars from one roll to another to the best way of drawing specifications for telegraph poles—and to have reduced every one to a question of exact science. The vivid clearness of the elaborate descriptions of the manufacture of wire, its finishing, insulation, and wrapping into cables, is like visiting the different works under the guidance of their masters.

Dr. G. S. Fraps has produced a book entitled 'Principles of Dyeing' (Macmillan Co.), which is intended to teach the general truths of that art in the classroom and laboratory to students who have little acquaintance with organic chemistry, and without much troubling them with that subject. We do not doubt that in some of our universities such a plan will be regarded as marking an enlightened appreciation of the educational conditions of our time, while individuals will be found to think it characteristic of an automobiling pedagogy which breaks down the distinction between liberal and professional education and produces something bad from either point of view. Given the plan, it is well worked out by Dr. Fraps.

Dr. C. Krauch's book, 'The Testing of Chemical Reagents for Purity' (D. Van Nostrand Co.), is a standard work of the highest authority and of wide utility. Its translators, T. A. Williamson and L. W. Dupré, have done their work well, and have sometimes substituted references to English books for those to German books, when they have the same value. The author has contributed some emendations.

Karl Verner's 'Afhandling og Breve' (Articles and Letters), recently published in Copenhagen through the Society for Germanic Philology, is a book of more than ordinary interest to linguists the world over. Verner owes his chief fame to the discovery of the law bearing his name, but all his investigations bore the stamp of distinction. In addition to the material indicated in the title, the work contains a life, by Marius Vibæk, a facsimile of one of Verner's letters, an illustrated account of Verner's apparatus for the study of

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