

The majority of names in Esther Singleton's 'Japan as Seen and Described by Great Writers' (Dodd, Mead & Co.) are those of transient tourists or of persons having little or no acquaintance with the history and language of the country. Yet, on the other hand, such writers may give more vivid impressions. The extracts are arranged under the heads of Country and Race (without any reference to Satow), History and Religion (without any reference to Knox and other writers on religion), Places and Monuments, Manners and Customs, Arts and Crafts, and Modern Japan. The illustrations are numerous and excellent, reproduced from well-known photographs, and the selections are for the most part proportionate and in good taste. The editing and proofreading, however, are none of the best. Some of the French spellings, like Foudji (Fuji), Daiboudhs (Daibutsu), etc., in a book which is said to be both "edited and translated," are shockingly off from the standard which has been in use for now more than thirty years. A sentence describing *saké* as "fermented drink, rice brandy," is hardly in order from the point of view of science. Some of the photographs are wrongly marked. For example, the "Shinto Temple, Kobé" is nothing else than the familiar tomb of Kiyomori, which stands in the yard of a famous Buddhist temple. Some of the statements of Humbert, who wrote nearly forty years ago, are obsolete and anachronistic. To speak of Nijo (which was the Shō-gun's) as "the Mikado's palace in Kioto" is much the same as referring to the palace at Versailles as the German Emperor's. Such a book as this should have an index. It is neatly printed, handsomely presented, and contains much valuable and informing matter.

The photo-engraving processes have not often been turned to better account than in the beautiful treatise, 'How to Make a Flower-Garden' (Doubleday, Page & Co.). Professor Bailey furnishes an attractive introduction, full of good sense and wise counsel, and contributes also a few short and instructive papers of a practical character. The rest of the book is a patchwork of most uneven quality. A few of the contributions are of a high order, while some are not at all in that class. But this was to have been expected when more than forty writers set about making a small treatise on gardening. The editor of such a treatise must be held blameless, for he cannot rewrite all the articles offered; the most that he can be required to do is simply to see that no misleading advice finds its way into the pages. So far as a careful perusal has gone, no serious errors of statement or advice have been detected, and the book as a whole can be recommended as both charming and useful.

In 'Trees and Shrubs,' Part III. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), Professor Sargent continues to make excellent use of the remarkable skill of the botanical artist Mr. Charles E. Faxon. Twenty-five "new or little known ligneous plants" are here brought under Mr. Faxon's pencil. In addition to the accompanying descriptions given by Professor Sargent, notes are presented by Messrs. Greenman, Rehder, and Shaw, the whole making an interesting as well as important contribution to dendrology. In this group of twenty-five species, *Crataegus* (Hawthorn) claims a prominent place, arrogating to it-

self eight of the plates. This genus has been of late undergoing a process of splitting-up until it seems to bid fair to become the terror of herborizers, very much as brambles now are in the Old World. The Southern species of *Crataegus* are numbered by the hundreds in a recent book, and the work has perhaps only just begun. It is likely that other polymorphic genera will now have to take their turn at disintegration; if so, it is to be hoped that the *disjecta membra* can secure as their pictorial recorder as accurate an artist as Mr. Faxon.

Mr. A. W. Verity has just added 'Hamlet' to his well-known editions of Shakspeare's plays (The Macmillan Company). The scholarly character of these editions has been generally recognized, and the present volume is worthy of its predecessors. Indeed, the very full and careful Notes seem to us superior to those of any of the editions for college use now on the market. It is rather surprising to an American, however, to note, in a book that is evidently intended for advanced students, practically no references to recent German works relating to Shakspeare. For example, we observe no citation of what is now undoubtedly the standard authority on Shakspearean grammar—namely, Franz's 'Shakspeare-Grammatik'; and Abbott still seems to be the editor's guide in such matters. Similarly, König's treatise on Shakspeare's versification—a work which was executed under the supervision of the late Professor Ten Brink—surely deserves a mention by the side of Abbott's less exhaustive treatment of the same subject. The same criticism might be extended to Mr. Verity's discussion of Hamlet's character, in which Dr. Loening's interpretation, that has made such a noise in the world, was worthy of a passing reference at least, if not of more. Finally, when the editor decided to devote four or five pages of an appendix to the famous Elizabethan stage-quarrel, with citations of the literature of the subject, he should certainly not have omitted to mention the most acute and learned book dealing with that controversy, namely, 'The Stage-Quarrel between Ben Jonson and the So-called Poetasters' (Breslau, 1899), by our countryman, the late Dr. R. A. Small.

Whoever likes to have some tolerable conception of the practical problems connected with things that he daily deals with, will be interested in a fairly readable little book entitled 'Electric Traction' (Whitaker & Co.), by John Hall Ryder, the chief electrical engineer of the London tramways. It discusses such details as controllers, conduit systems, accumulators, etc., from the point of view of a man in a high responsible position. The work is, to be sure, calculated for the meridian of Greenwich; but that only adds to its interest, especially as the author never loses sight of American practice, which indeed would be quite impossible in the field of electrical engineering. In special parts of that field Germany and France are in advance of us, although it is admitted that we lead on the whole. How backward England is in some respects is shown by Mr. Ryder's considering only direct-current dynamos, though the alternating system is used on the Manhattan Elevated, and though the majority of recent advances have been in that direction. On the other hand, he seems to have the best of the argument in condemning our conduits midway between the rails.

The new edition of Hawkins and Wallis's 'The Dynamo' (Macmillan) is, on its practical side, a new work. The first edition, which preceded this by just ten years, and which was in its day an admirable compendium, is now as much out of date as Johnson's Dictionary. The new edition, though double the size of the first, is relatively hardly as full, in view of the art's advance. It is easily the best book on the subject, but does not enter into the minutest details.

Prof. William Henry Boynton's 'Applications of the Kinetic Theory' (Macmillan) is a work comparable with the main text of Oscar Emil Meyer's celebrated treatise, from which it differs by its superior brevity, but chiefly by the study it gives to liquids. It is as lucid as possible. The author disclaims all originality, but he has performed his task with very marked ability. Yet we must protest against his narrow point of view. The theorem of the virial, which ought to be the very root of the whole tree, is barely mentioned, and is called an "abstraction." We cannot see the justice of this. Are students of physics supposed to be babies? Certainly, it is desirable to present the subject free from all the intricacies that Boltzmann and Burbury have introduced into it. But the theorem of the virial, instead of raising the difficulties and doubts that a too minute examination will bring out, enables the student to dispense with several arbitrary and almost absurd hypotheses. Prof. Boynton ought to reconsider that matter for another edition.

The volume which M. P. Alphandéry entitles 'Les Idées Morales des Hétérodoxes Latins au début du XIII<sup>e</sup> Siècle' (Paris: Leroux), is a creditable résumé of recent research on the heresies which preceded the rise of the great Mendicant Orders, although it presents little if anything that is strictly new. The title is somewhat too restricted, for the moral conceptions of the heretics form but a small part of the subjects discussed, and it seems to have been adopted in conformity with the thesis that the heresies originated in a general popular desire for moral elevation which the Church, absorbed in consolidating its temporal power, neglected to furnish. It appears somewhat odd to find (p. xxv.) Innocent III. characterized as the first jurist to mount the papal throne, when Alexander III., the author of the 'Summa Rolandi' and of the 'Post Concilium Lateranense,' has already injected so much of the imperial jurisprudence into the canon law.

Gaston Paris died over a year ago, but obituary notices and appreciations of his work continue to be published in great number. Two of these are of especial interest—one by his successor at the Collège de France, Joseph Bédier, 'Hommage à Gaston Paris' (Paris: Champion), and a second by the most distinguished of Italian scholars, Pio Rajna, 'Gaston Paris: Discorso letto alla R. Accademia della Crusca' (Firenze: Tip. Galileiana). The latter is especially concerned with Paris's relations to Italy and to Italian literature, and is enriched by numerous citations from letters to Amédée Durande and to Rajna himself. The former is the set *leçon d'ouverture* delivered on assuming the vacant chair in the Collège de France, and insists especially on the work of Paris in diffusing the scientific study of the French language and literature, and on his great influence in this direction, both in France and elsewhere.

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