

might commit the blunder, less pardonable than crime, of beginning with the wrong fork at a dinner or using ruled notepaper, or addressing a letter "Mr. and Mrs. Brown and Family." The etiquette of visiting-cards, of serving afternoon tea, of balls and calls and weddings, is here given in detail. The "divorced woman's visiting card" (*O mores!*) has a section all to itself. Miss Clapp is on the whole a guide who may be followed blindly by the unsophisticated. We have noted, however, at least one serious mistake. It is not true that in English society the newcomer "calls first on the residents of the place" (p. 25). If the path of the parvenu were thus made easy, what English county family would be safe? On page 51 Miss Clapp gives what she considers the correct form for that bugbear of the illiterate, a letter in the third person. Her model composition runs smoothly as far as the second sentence, and then comes the familiar lapse: "Enclosed find check for the amount." This is fortunately directed to a member of society to whom the check will seem more essential than good grammar.

Another volume of the same series, 'House and Home,' by Mary Elizabeth Carter, is addressed to that great class which in England would rank as "middle," and in France as the *bourgeoisie*. It deals with the routine of the home from the moment when you choose it or build it, to the moment when it burns down; and here we may observe that this very sensible writer, who has grasped the great truth that the home centres in the plumbing, the cellar, and the heating apparatus, wholly ignores the possibility of fire, and the precautions that should be taken by every careful household-er. For the rest, we can only say that a household that should be run on the lines laid down in Miss Carter's little book would realize even the ideal of the Chicago millionaire who dreamed of home life without friction, and decided that to eliminate this would be worth, to him at any rate, a million dollars.

The publishing house of Clifford & Lawton, at No. 19 Union Square in this city, sends us a small portfolio "containing fifty-five views of the best contemporary American interiors, correctly classified by periods." One sheet at once bears the title, 'American Interior Decoration,' and the list of illustrations; and on the back a brief publisher's note, giving credit to the furniture dealers, decorators, and business homes which deal in matter of decoration, for somewhat less than half of the fifty-five pictures. The reader who will imagine a collection made up from the newly opened Hotel St. Regis and the only less renowned Hotel Astor, three or four stage settings, half a score of exhibits at St. Louis, several saloons made up in the shops of prominent furniture dealers, and "a Minneapolis decorator's version of Japanese," will be able to form a fair notion of the sort of book that we have here. Obviously, no one of the designs can be of any considerable artistic interest. Of course, in every such collection, there are hints of costly and carefully made-up interiors; and sometimes, as if by accident, a really interesting effect may be produced, as where, in the New York Building at St. Louis, a double colonnade of very florid design divides a large hall in a really effective fashion.

Longmans, Green & Co. publish 'An Attempt towards a Chemical Conception of the Ether,' by D. Mendeléeff, translated from the Russian by George Kamensky. There is nothing new in the idea that the ether may be a chemical body. Mendeléeff's turn of mind would naturally lead him to favor this view; but it cannot be denied that a review of the history of scientific hypotheses will show that it has been conceptions of this character—the realistic character—in favor of which experiment has usually decided. It is an interesting fact, too, that a man of Mendeléeff's surpassing sagacity should be so decided as he appears to be that, if the ether is a chemical body, it is an unmixed element of the helium-argon group. It has long been as good as known that coronium, whose spectrum was so magnificent in the eclipse of August 7, 1869, is a chemical element, considerably lighter than hydrogen. Mendeléeff says its atomic weight "will be not greater than 0.4, and probably less." This would make its density one-fifth that of hydrogen or one-seventieth of the air's. He makes it similar to neon, which, with little reason, he separates slightly from helium, argon, krypton, and xenon—that is, he separates it as much as sodium is separated from lithium, potassium, rubidium, and cesium.

J. Clark Murray's 'Introduction to Psychology' (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.) is simply our old favorite, the same author's well-known and approved 'Handbook,' in a new dress. The author thinks that so many parts have been so completely rewritten that "it would have been misleading to describe it as a new edition of the old work." Many will hold quite the reverse opinion. We do not remark much retraction, and the enlargements amount, we should judge, to some 6 per cent. of the contents; certainly not to the double of that. The changes appear to be everywhere judicious, and in half a dozen cases, at most, important; but the original dress of the book was far more graceful and more likely to prove engaging to young persons. The new 'Introduction' is, however, welcome.

Prof. Florian Cajori's 'Introduction to the Modern Theory of Equations' (Macmillan) demands mention as the only small treatise in the language embracing the whole subject and showing how best to treat higher algebraic equations. The account of the Galvian theory is avowedly taken from Weber's algebra, but is for the first time brought within the comprehension of every student of middling capacity, by numerous examples. If the student goes through these and makes sure of perfectly familiarizing himself with every aspect of one point before going on to the next, and not fatiguing himself, we see no reason for his finding this doctrine, so useful as it often is, and so sure of enlarging the mind, at all beyond his grasp. We regret that the limits of the roots have not been more liberally treated.

The geographical section connected with the French African army has published a large chart in seventeen sheets covering the larger portion of French Africa. But as this is still defective, giving only the itineraries, it has been decided to prepare a large chart on the scale of 1:500,000, to consist of at least sixty parts. Special investigations are now being made for this purpose in the lower Senegal districts, in the peninsula of Cape Verde, Dakar, and elsewhere. It will take many years to complete the work. The

next region to be undertaken is the neighborhood of Saint Louis, and an expedition is being prepared for the Ivory Coast.

Liberia is in an extremely primitive condition, judging from the account by our minister, Mr. Ernest Lyon, of a recent journey into the interior published in the Consular Reports. There are no roads, and the means of communication between the villages "in the dense forests or upon the tops of steep hills" are paths made crooked and labyrinthine to render access difficult. This is due mainly to the ceaseless tribal wars which are devastating the State—wars of which "women are invariably the cause." The land has great natural resources. The forests abound in rich and valuable timber. Mineral wealth is abundant. Cotton is indigenous, and the soil is peculiarly adapted to the growth of coffee. But these sources of prosperity and wealth are largely undeveloped, and in some instances, like that of coffee culture, the amount and value of the crop are diminishing. The whole foreign trade in 1902 was only about half a million dollars (\$535,974), or one hundred thousand less than in 1899 (\$646,646). It is a significant fact, mentioned in another report, which in some measure accounts for the lamentable decadence, that "almost every Liberian [meaning an American negro or his descendant] is a Government official."

—Little, Brown & Co., Boston, publish a new (fourth) edition of John Norton Pomeroy's 'Code Remedies,' by Prof. Thomas A. Bogle. The editor has added a multitude of cases (some ten thousand citations are given), and to obtain room has done much in the way of omission and condensation. Nearly a third of the book is new. Mr. Pomeroy was one of the last of the legal writers of what may be called the old American school—men whose aim was nothing more spectacular or novel than the plain exposition of the law as they found it. The system of code remedies was fortunate, in the days when the Code itself was still a novelty, in finding in him an expounder of the first order of ability, unprejudiced and lucid in a most difficult and technical field. On the first appearance of the book thirty years ago it was found to explain the newly introduced system so clearly and forcibly (Mr. Pomeroy's style was admirably adapted to his work) that it was at once welcomed by the bench and the profession, and accepted as an authoritative treatise, and it has held its own. Professor Bogle's conscientious and thorough revision probably guarantees it a prolonged life. He is, we believe, an acknowledged authority on the reformed Procedure, and his hand is to be seen on almost every page. Such a revision, if successful, redounds almost equally to the credit of author and editor.

—Another law-book, published by the same house, which deserves more than ordinary notice, is a work in one volume by Alfred G. Reeves on 'Real Property.' The author calls it a "treatise on special subjects of the law of Real Property," but this is too modest a title, for it contains an outline of all real-property law; together with more detailed treatment of those special subjects, such as fixtures, easements, tenures, uses, trusts, powers, mortgages and perpetuities, which occasion most controversy and litigation. Unless we are mistaken, the student and practitioner will find here in a single volume what it is dif-

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