

York Official Automobile Register and Tourists' Guide, for 1905, a new venture. It contains the official registry of automobiles from 1 to 16,154; an alphabetic local guide with indication of hotels and communications; forty-one measured routes in detail; lists of associations; customs regulations; supply and repair shops; and New York automobile legislation. It is issued by the Hall Publishing Co., No. 150 Nassau Street.

Mr. William T. Comstock, No. 23 Warren Street, sends us the sixth annual edition of his 'Architects' Directory and Specification Index,' for 1904-5. The novel feature is the inclusion of landscape and naval architects—numerically of about equal strength. The specification index is to manufactured materials and equipment of all kinds.

From these small volumes we pass to the mammoth 'Knauer's Manufacturers of the United States,' now in its fifth issue (New York: Manufacturers' Red-Book Publishing Co.). This is a mine of information and direction for articles and trades and manufacturers and exporters, filling more than 2,300 quarto pages. The number of manufacturers alphabetically listed and classified is nearly 514,000.

E. P. Powell's 'The Orchard and Fruit-garden' (McClure, Phillips & Co.) covers a very wide range of cultivated plants, taking in not only our fruits of temperate climates, but also dates, olives, pineapples, bananas, and a few other tropical productions. The illustrations are for the most part good and are well chosen, and the practical directions are generally judicious. The manual ought to be of considerable assistance to the large class of amateurs who are fond of watching their gardens in the process of formation. There are many people who learn a foreign language much more readily from a dozen elementary manuals than from one well conned. In all probability, every amateur who uses this book will have also at hand a shelf filled with the excellent modern works on fruits and fruit-culture, and perhaps either the English or American 'Cyclopædia of Horticulture.' This book is well worth a place on that shelf.

The very handsome edition of the 'Works of Charles and Mary Lamb,' edited by Mr. E. V. Lucas (G. P. Putnam's Sons), several volumes of which have already received notice in these columns, is now brought near completion by the publication of two volumes of correspondence. A Life of Lamb, in preparation, will complete a work for which every lover of Elia will thank the accomplished editor. This correspondence is to a large extent new to the public. It comprises the letters of Mary Lamb, correspondence with the Wordsworth family and the Moxons, with many other pieces of great interest never before published. The letters bring the real living Lamb before us as nothing else could do. In his essays and other writings, spontaneous as they seem, there is always the literary touch, the consciousness of the public eye; but here we have the mood of the hour, the whim of the moment—things that he would never have said if he had thought twice, and things of which he would never have thought if he had tried to think of them. Perhaps no single friend could have known him as well as the reader who here takes the place of all his friends. The editor has used ex-

traordinary pains to make clear the innumerable allusions to persons and things well known to the correspondents, but unknown to us—a task the labor of which no one who has not undertaken the like can possibly appreciate. The illustrations, as in the preceding volumes, are excellent and full of interest.

In a little volume called 'N-Rays' (Longmans, Green & Co.), Mr. J. Garcia has shown his French tact in book-making by simply translating Blondlot's papers just as they stand in the *Comptes-rendus*, which gives the book a life and interest that no literary make-up could ever impart. The N-rays, so called from the town of Nancy, in whose university M. Blondlot is professor, are simply light-rays; but they can scarcely be described as ordinary light, since (unless there is a misprint of cm. for mm.) they can be detected after passing through a thickness of over two feet of metallic copper. They are ultra-violet rays. An ordinary eye with an ordinary spectroscope can hardly (without fluorescence) perceive any light of lesser wave-length than 400 micro-microns. (A micro-micron is a thousandth of a micron, and a micron is a thousandth of a millimeter.) About eighteen months ago the Smithsonian Institution published a research by Dr. Victor Schumann, showing that by replacing the glass lenses and prism of a spectroscope with lenses and prism of fluor-spar, and by exhausting the air to a high vacuum, the spectrum of hydrogen could be photographed as high (i. e., to as short a wave-length) as 100 micro-microns. Long before that point is reached, air has become absolutely opaque, even in layers a hundredth of an inch thick or less; so that not a scintilla of such light reaches us from the sun. But now these new N-rays, whose wave-lengths range over more than two octaves, from 18 down to 3 micro-microns, pass through air with perfect ease, and are observed by Blondlot with a prism and lenses of metallic aluminium. They are found in sunlight and in various artificial lights. They are absolutely cut off by the thinnest film of pure water, but pass through it readily if a little (even a very little) table salt be dissolved in the water; and they are faintly perceptible to a good eye if it be reinforced by placing behind it an artist's power of seeing without looking. The means of experimentation may be reduced to extreme simplicity, and all that is requisite for it is actually bound up in the volume—the instrument itself, we mean. These rays ought to become the rage.

Students of the American Revolution will be interested in the pamphlet recently published by the Library of Congress under the title 'Some Papers Laid before the Continental Congress, 1775.' The papers here published are: The Declaration on Taking Arms, July 6, 1775; Franklin's Articles of Confederation, July 21, 1775; Reports on the Trade of America, July 21, October 2, and October 13, 1775; Report on Lord North's motion, and reports on the Committees on Recess and Unfinished Business. The value of the pamphlet lies principally in the care which has been taken to show the evolution of the final document in each case from the first draft through the intermediate forms. It is much to be hoped that the Library of Congress may be able to increase its activity in this kind of work very greatly in the future.

We have received No. 1 of Papers and Proceedings of the three-year-old Bergen County (N. J.) Historical Society, a modest publication, containing, among other matter, Mr. W. A. Linn's researches concerning Baron Stueben's connection with Hackensack. This serious and solid study makes all the more regrettable a grave defect in Col. W. D. Snow's Report of the Committee on Colonial and Revolutionary History and Historical Places. The reporter goes out of his way to give fresh currency to a manifestly fraudulent letter attributed to Cotton Mather, concerning a threatened arrival of Quakers at Boston by sea, and the bloodthirsty measures he records and approves for heading off the calamity. This document, condemnable by its style, is a condensation of one that first appeared in the *Easton (Pa.) Mercury* of April 28, 1870. It has been exposed again and again as a complete and palpable forgery. At the date of the letter (September 15, 1682), Cotton Mather was a youth of nineteen, an age ill fitted to engage in such piracy. The second number of the above Society's Proceedings should contain a proclamation of the truth in this matter.

The annual report of the Providence Public Library, the twenty-seventh of its veteran librarian, Mr. W. E. Foster, shows steady development and growth in every branch. The larger use of it did not come about by the simple means of multiplying popular books. The accessions of fiction were only 393 volumes out of a total of 5,326, and the fiction circulation was the lowest in the history of the Library, 53.82. An instance of the successful way in which the valuable contents are brought to the knowledge of readers is the alphabetical index of more than 500 references to works on "civic art," prepared in connection with an exhibit on that subject. The industrial, as well as the educational, interests of the city are cared for, and the use of the industrial collection increased 20 per cent. last year, while designers of jewelry and silverware are constantly employed in the Art alcoves. The total number of volumes in the Library is 115,349; or, if the "deposited" collections be included, 133,000.

Mr. Goldwin Smith's presidential address, as read to the American Historical Association last December in Chicago, is given in full in the *American Historical Review* for April. It is in general an argument for a philosophy, as opposed to a science, of history, and is strewn with many illuminating sentences. Mr. Smith had searched our latter-day juvenile text-books in American history with an eye to their fostering anti-British sentiment. He found this greatly diminished. The books were not rancorous, but dry. "For writing children's books special genius is required." He would "emphatically acknowledge Carlyle's greatness as a teacher of history. In picturesqueness he has hardly a peer. . . . I would venture to commend [his 'French Revolution'] as a valuable training in its way for the historic sense." "In the sentiment and style of Mommsen's 'History of Rome' we perceive Germany passing from the metaphysical to the militant, and hear the tramp of the German armies marching on Paris." "Through all this, mankind, or at least the leading members of the race, have been struggling onward to social, moral, perhaps spiritual life. Are things tending to