

ings to accompany the Baker & Taylor Co.'s generous and very taking edition of 'A Christmas Carol, and The Cricket on the Hearth' are singularly uneven. Those for the latter story fall much below the more than usual excellence of their predecessors. They are all full-page, and serve a decorative purpose, and the frontispiece in color is delicate and well conceived. To be praised, too, is the corresponding plate for 'The Cricket on the Hearth.'

The daily caricaturist, John T. McCutcheon, has long been a power in the West, and needs no introduction to Chicagoans, at least. His 'Mysterious Stranger, and Other Cartoons' (McClure, Phillips & Co.) preserves too much that is trivial and vulgar (not in the most odious sense), and would have been the better for a severe screening. The folio opens with Mr. Roosevelt's Western hunting exploits, and marches (but not always chronologically) with the progress of events, serving as a mirror and chronicle of the time. The Russo-Japanese war cuts a figure here, and there is nothing better than Kuropatkin's "regret to report that All is lost save Oyama, and we're trying to find him." Secretary Taft in Japan before the Buddha statue, reminding himself of Napoleon before the Sphinx, and wondering who can name the next President of the United States, is also a happy conceit. The symbolism of "The Wedding of Crown Prince Frederick and Duchess Cecilia," heart-shaped bretzels pierced by an arrow and ringed by a dachshund gripping his own tail, is capital in another way. On the whole, we find the collection rather dreary.

'Representative Essays on the Theory of Style,' chosen and edited by William T. Brewster (Macmillan), is a volume likely to be of good service to academic students of literature and composition. It contains the essays of Newman, De Quincey, Spencer, Lewes, Stevenson, Pater, and Harrison, a clear-headed introduction and adequate notes. This selection of texts is obviously contemporary in its bearing rather than historical, but the authors included represent so many polarities of rhetorical theory that the book may be taken as a fairly comprehensive, as well as an uncommonly wholesome, stylist's enchiridion.

Modern methods of teaching English, which have begotten many *biblia a-biblia*, are sometimes responsible for the making of a real book. Such an one is the volume of 'English Essays' selected and edited by Prof. Walter C. Bronson (Henry Holt & Co.). Twenty-four writers are represented, from Bacon to Stevenson. The lay-reader might complain that Professor Bronson has not been very careful to define the limits of the essay type, so that while such thorough essayists as Cowley and Temple do not appear at all in the book, we have passages from the writings of Burke, Ruskin, and Newman that tend to edification rather than to delight, and are in form and spirit not essays at all. Yet liberally as Professor Bronson has interpreted his title, he has nevertheless contrived to preserve in his selection an admirable unity in variety. The volume is a real book in that it embodies the spirit of three centuries of the best English prose, prose marked by a certain British soberness of thought, and even, as compared with French prose, by a certain uneasy heaviness, yet not seldom visited by wizard lights of imagination, and

warmed by a wealth of humor, both delicate and broad, that no similar collection in any foreign tongue could parallel.

The luck of the alphabet has given to Volume X. of the Jewish Encyclopædia (Phillipson-Samoscz) several articles of length and interest. Those on the Popes and Rome show the ecclesiastical policy of Christendom towards the Jews, as opposed to the very varying treatment of temporal rulers, and still more to the fanatical outbursts of Christian communities. Russia has, of right, one of the longest articles in the whole work (57 pages). Maps and tables of population, etc., are given. Of a lighter and less melancholy interest is the story of the Rothschild family, from its earliest traced ancestor, in the mid-sixteenth century, and in its two branches of the rabbinate and the world—a story whose artistic value Disraeli appreciated, and which has material enough for a dozen novels. Biographies whose subjects belong to the larger world are those of Rashi, Ricardo, Rubinstein, Saadya, Philo. For his Jewish connection and wealth of Jewish types and portraits, Rembrandt is also added. The frontispiece reproduces a portrait by him, and ten other Jewish heads are shown in black and white. For picturesqueness, the article on Prague, with many good illustrations, easily holds its own, though that on Purim and Purim-plays is untheological enough, and affords refreshing views of life. In folklore there is the Sabbath river Sambatton and a plenty of spirits—Raphael, Sammael, and the rest. More serious is a good historical article on Reform Judaism from the reform point of view; another orthodox treatment of the same would have been much to the point. The Book of Revelation is reclaimed as a Jewish apocalypse, with a full acceptance of Vischer's hypothesis. There is the usual immense number of biographies; only use can tell whether they are numerous or full enough.

Those who enjoy the mouthings of spiritual self-conceit will be glad to learn that they can find a surfeit of such airy food in Agamya Guru's 'Sri Brahma Dhara' (or 'shower from the highest'), in which the Mahatma kindly condescends to instruct the Occident in the dogmas of Vedanta philosophy. Of argument there is nothing, of assertion there are eighty-seven pages in the form of a catechism, which explains that this world is a delusive charm of the great magician called Maya, and that Maya is "an illusive fermentation of an Atom of Bliss in the power of the Highest." The much-enduring student of the catechism is told to "abandon the Ego of sole existence in the Infinite, Eternal Bliss, and be the Omniscience of the Unfathomable Reality." Then the journey will be over and the student will be "the same as the Highest." Lusac & Co., London, publish this amusing screed.

The latest volume of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* contains a succinct statement by Dr. Peters of the facts regarding the Nippur library and Professor Hilprecht's discoveries, real and alleged. The leading article is by Professor Hopkins, who gives a hitherto unpublished Sanskrit text of the fable of the "Fountain of Youth," together with a study of phases of the same fable in the Occident. Professor Toy contributes a study of an early form of animal sacrifice, and Dr. Blake continues his investigations of the Bisayan dialects—to

mention only a few of the fifteen papers in the volume.

There can hardly be a more convenient guide for a beginner who, having busied himself somewhat with ferns, wishes to glance at their relatives, than the book entitled 'The Fern Allies of North America North of Mexico,' by Willard Nelson Clute (Frederick A. Stokes Co.). The illustrations, above one hundred and fifty in number, are by Ida Martin Clute. The text is interesting and the drawings are clear, so that there should be little difficulty in making one's way among these interesting plants, which are the existing representatives of a vegetation that (with the ferns of high and low degree) ushered in our present flora.

Twelve attractive California flowers have been selected for reproduction in color on separate sheets of convenient form. The publisher, William M. Bains, Philadelphia, states, in an accompanying leaflet, that the prints are copies, by the Ives Process, of the water-color drawings of Mrs. Elizabeth Hallowell Saunders. The registering of the three colors, especially the yellow factor, is far from perfect, and therefore the reproductions probably do scant justice to the originals, but the general effect is pleasing, and the handful of pictures is well worth having as a companion to any California botany.

M. H. Carton de Wiart's 'La Cité Ardente' (Paris: Perrin & Cie) is an historical novel concerning Liège and its surroundings in the time of Charles the Bold. It seems to be built on a rich fund of archaeological lore, and towards the end of the volume there is a moving love story which vividly and truthfully portrays a high-bred young lady, sublimely courageous and self-sacrificing to the honor and traditions of her family. The book dwells minutely on the apparel and picturesque scenes of the period, and certainly gives a deep impression of the misery of the turbulence prevailing at a time when, if there was no more wickedness than now, wickedness at any rate raised its head more audaciously. The novel will especially interest a person familiar with mediæval Belgium.

The Vienna Academy of Sciences has granted to Prof. Dr. Heinrich Sieveking of the University of Marburg a sufficient sum from the Savigny fund to pursue a detailed study of the mediæval business and commercial records in Italian archives. Professor Sieveking has already made extensive investigations in Genoa, Pisa, and Florence, and at a recent meeting of the Academy gave a full report of the business records of the Medici, which he found in the last-mentioned city. He showed that this famous patrician family not only conducted a complete banking business in all its departments, but equally carried on trade and an insurance business. The trade was international, branch houses being founded in France, England, Germany, Switzerland, Burgundy, Spain, and Portugal. On account of the dangers in sending moneys, cash payments were practically never made. The experience of the Medici in commercial transactions with princes and potentates, was unsatisfactory. At any rate, Piero de' Medici states that in lending to princes there was more danger than profit. Insurance on the contents of ocean vessels was