

drawing-together of the scattered particles, become heated, according to the well-known law for gases.

It will not do, perhaps, to be critical here, any more than one should be of a fairy-tale, for it would destroy the charm of the illusion; and there is no reason why this speculation is not as good as, or perhaps better than, any other cosmological theory.

The book, further, contains an additional part, giving a historical account of the evolution of cosmogonic doctrines; while, as a whole, it contains very full references to the literature of the subjects discussed.

HOVEY'S MIND-READING.

THE title of this book gives no adequate idea of its contents. It is a very full account, indeed in great part a reprint, of such of the Proceedings of the English Society for psychical research as refer to thought-transference, with a few pages of introductory and concluding matter. Why this fact should not be made apparent in the title, we fail to see, as it is distinctly stated in the body of the work, and is evident on every page. The title will naturally suggest to the reader an original discussion of the history or philosophy of the subject, which the book does not pretend to give him. None the less, however, must we thank the author for presenting to the American reader so complete an account of what is really important and interesting in the volumes issued by the society referred to. He has wisely omitted every thing not pertaining to the special subject of mind-reading and telepathy. The matter pertaining to this subject is presented so fully and so faithfully, that it leaves little for the reviewer to say of the general character of the contents of the book.

What are really original, are the author's own discussions in the first and last chapters. These discussions are, we regret to say, of a nature rather to cast discredit upon the whole subject, in the minds of the closest thinkers, than to throw light upon it. The author wholly mistakes the point at issue between the believers and unbelievers in psychic force. He joins the great army of hobby-riders by holding up to ridicule or disapprobation certain real or supposed men who in the past have opposed, on scientific grounds, views which afterward turned out to be correct. This is just what every man does who has an

engine to run without fuel, or a patent gun which is to destroy the largest armored ship. Mr. Hovey represents those who differ from him as men who pronounce untrue that which they cannot explain; and all the way through he imagines himself talking about people who deny his facts. Now, there are no such people worth talking about, and there is no question of fact at issue. The real state of the case is, that he has a theory for explaining admitted facts, and the only men he has to oppose are those who do not believe that he has established his theory. The admitted facts are certain phenomena known as mind-reading, and certain acts of copying drawings by a blind-folded person not in contact with any other person. The contested theory is that these facts prove the transfer of thought from mind to mind without the intervention of any physical agency. Those who refuse to accept this theory may or may not have a theory of their own: it is not at all incumbent on them to form one. They may say that they meet with phenomena which they cannot explain, every day of their lives, and that this is amongst them. The psychic societies were organized for the express purpose of investigating the subject, and finding out what theory, if any, was the correct one. If there were not some question as to how the phenomena should be explained, there would be little occasion for a psychical society.

TEXT-BOOKS IN CHEMISTRY AND MINERALOGY.

THE lecture-notes on general chemistry, by Dr. J. T. Stoddard, are, as the title indicates, merely an outline which should be the basis of a student's notes in a course of experimental lectures. A few general principles of the science are given briefly, and then follow statements of the properties, uses, history, method of preparation, and occurrence, of the commonest of the non-metals and their compounds. The appendix contains some tables and hints as to the methods of chemical calculation. From its briefness, the book can be of little value except as a suggestion of some elementary facts which the beginner should learn; and its use as an outline for the basis of a

Outlines of lecture-notes on general chemistry. Part i. The non-metals. By J. T. STODDARD. Northampton, Gazette publishing company, 1884. 84 p. 8°.

An outline of qualitative analysis for beginners. By J. T. STODDARD. Northampton, Gazette printing company, 1883. 4+54 p. 8°.

Systematic mineral record, with a synopsis of terms and chemical reactions used in describing minerals. By E. M. SHEPARD. New York, Barnes, 1884. 26 p. 8°.

Mind-reading and beyond. By WILLIAM A. HOVEY. Boston, Lee & Shepard, 1885.