

to a state of stagnation. There is an art of being happy, a very essential part of which is the power to enjoy the little every-day comforts of living, and the absence of excessive worry about the morrow. To assure the reader that all this is not simply theory, the author plainly announces that he is happy. This is indeed a healthy optimism, and, if happiness is at all a scientific topic, the anthropologist is entitled to an authoritative voice in the matter. But one cannot escape the conviction, even in the midst of the most glowingly pictured pages, that the balmy air of Italy has allowed the poet to run away with the scientist, and that the problem of living is not so simple as we would like it to be. Be this as it may, these pages contain the very interesting observations of a very interesting man.

Winter: From the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau. Ed. by H. G. O. BLAKE. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 12°.

THIS volume is the third that has been made of selections from its author's journal. This singular man withdrew to a great extent from the interests and the society of his fellow-men, and devoted himself to the contemplation of nature. He was a naturalist; yet there is very little of scientific interest in the volume before us. He blames men of science for giving too exclusive attention to the physical structure of animals, with too little regard for their mental characteristics and their habits of life; yet he has not much to say on these subjects himself. He was evidently more interested in the æsthetic aspect of nature than in the scientific, though he shows but little insight into the deeper poetical significance of natural objects. His remarks run largely on the trivial every-day aspects of things, such as the tracks of animals on the snow, the appearance of buds and catkins in the winter, and the bark of the yellow birch; and he goes into ecstasies over the humming of a telegraph wire, which he declares to be superior to all the poetry of antiquity (p. 106). The journal is full of complaints about the loss of early friendships, several of Thoreau's friends having become estranged from him, which he seems to have been at loss to account for. But surely a man who took so little interest in human affairs as he seems to have done could hardly expect very warm sympathy from others. The journal contains many observations on moral and intellectual matters, which are often of much higher value than the descriptions of natural objects that make up the greater part of the work. The author's delineation of the character of Washington is correct and well expressed, and he has several remarks here and there on the subject of authors and authorship which are quite interesting. Thoreau's style is generally clear and refined, both in descriptive and in reflective passages; and if he had had a higher purpose in life, and more interest in the affairs of men, he might have been an eminent author.

Natural Law in the Business World. By HENRY WOOD. Boston, Lee & Shepard. 16°.

THE author of this work is a practical business-man, and writes throughout from a practical point of view. He disclaims all pretension to scientific profundity, yet he shows a clear grasp of scientific principles and of their relations to the business world. He speaks of his work as "an honest attempt to trace out the working and application of natural law, as it runs through the economic and social fabric, in a plain and simple manner" (p. 5). The attempt, we think, is in the main successful. The author's style is direct and clear, and his method of treatment better fitted to win the attention of practical but unscientific minds than the method of the regular economists.

The main thesis of the book is the supremacy in industry of the law of supply and demand, and the necessity of adherence to this law as a condition of industrial prosperity. Many other subjects, however, are treated in the various chapters, which cover a wide range of topics. Mr. Wood is strongly opposed to labor combinations, partly because of their antagonism to capital, and partly because they are sometimes unjust to non-unionists, and because, as he thinks, they unduly restrict the individual freedom of their own members. In condemning them so strongly as he does, we think he goes too far, for he seems to have judged them almost exclusively by their bad side, without regard to the benefits which may

and often do result from them. He shows, however, a lively interest in the laborers themselves and a strong desire for more harmonious relations between them and their employers. He emphasizes the fact that brain labor is more important than muscular labor, a fact that is too often overlooked by labor agitators; but he honors honest labor of every kind, and declares that labor is a blessing, and not a curse. Socialism, of course, meets with Mr. Wood's unsparing condemnation, and he looks with little favor on any species of State interference. The chapters on the unequal distribution of wealth, on dependence and poverty, on the railroad system, and on the management of corporations, are well considered, and worthy of perusal by both laborers and capitalists. The book is now issued in cheap form, with paper covers, and deserves a wide circulation.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE twentieth annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science was held in the Capitol Building, Topeka, Oct. 26, 27, 28, 1887. There was an excellent attendance of members, but the local attendance was not quite equal to that of last year. The capital has too many things in the way of meetings, etc., so the citizens become a little weary. The papers read were unusually valuable. The Academy of Science is growing. The annual meeting next year will be held in Wichita in October. The following is a list of the papers read: address of the retiring president, Rev. John D. Parker, on 'Progress in Astronomy'; Lucien J. Blake, 'Practical Electricity and the Laws of Energy'; H. W. Everest, 'The Utilization of Mental Power'; Robert Hay, 'The Lignite of the Kansas Dakota,' and 'Notes on Salt in Kansas'; W. R. Lighton, 'On the New Coal-Shaft at Leavenworth'; F. H. Snow, 'Fossil Flora of the Kansas Dakota,' and 'A List of the Fauna and Flora of the Kansas Coal-Measures'; D. S. Kelly, 'Notes on Fossil Elephas from Morton County'; Joseph Savage, 'A Fossil Deposit at Garden Park, Colorado'; E. H. S. Bailey, 'On the Recently discovered Ellsworth Salt-Beds'; Robert Hay, 'Notes on Building-Stones in Kansas'; N. S. Goss, 'On the Nesting of the Mississippi Kite and Snowy Plover in Central-Southern Kansas,' 'Notes on the Yellow-Tailed Cassiques,' and 'Feeding-Habits of the White Pelicans'; F. H. Snow, 'Notes on the Purslane-Worm (*Copidryas Gloveri*)'; W. Knaus, 'Notes on *Calopteron reticulatum* Fab.'; Charles R. Carpenter, 'On the Black Rot of the Grape'; Mrs. A. L. Slosson, 'Personal Observations on the Kansas Flora'; F. H. Snow, 'The Desmids of Kansas'; W. A. Kellerman, 'Some New or Little-Known Kansas Plants'; L. E. Sayre, 'Report of Further Observation on the Loco-Weed,' and 'The Resin of *Silphium laciniatum* (Rosin-Weed)'; W. R. Lighton, 'Notes on the Circulation of the Sap'; J. T. Lovewell, 'Alcohol in Temperance-Drinks'; T. H. Dinsmore, 'Should Malt be considered an Intoxicant?'; and 'On the Effect of Oxygen on Animal Life'; E. H. S. Bailey, 'On the Relation between Taste and the Acidity of Certain Acids'; L. E. Sayre, 'The Action of Chromate of Lead upon the Gastric Fluid'; T. H. Dinsmore, 'Color-Blindness in the State Normal School'; J. T. Lovewell, 'Further Studies on the Rainfall in Kansas'; F. H. Snow, 'Rain Cycles in Kansas'; George E. Curtis, 'Weather-Predictions in the United States'; T. B. Jennings, 'Needs and Utility of the Kansas State Weather-Service'; George B. Curtis, 'The Exposure of Meteorological Instruments,' and 'Chimney-Hoods'; W. S. Franklin, 'Continuation of Some Studies of Lissajous Figures.'

—The steamship 'Hondo' sailed on Wednesday, Nov. 30, with the Nicaragua Canal Association's survey expedition. The work will be in immediate charge of E. S. Peary. The instructions issued by Chief-Engineer Menocal are very minute. The *Engineering News* says that five parties will be organized. First the survey by all the parties of the north-eastern section of the canal, with special attention to Greytown Harbor, is contemplated, estimated to take three months' time, when most of the parties are to be moved over to the comparatively short western section. The important detail of boring to ascertain the nature of the material is not to be neglected. The present idea is that six to nine months in all will cover the work of preliminary location enough to base tolerably exact estimates on.