vious experience as member of Congress and mayor of Boston had eminently fitted him for the work. Dr. Peabody gives many interesting accounts of the modes of teaching and lecturing pursued by the professors of whom he speaks, some of which are full of suggestiveness even now. He gives his personal recollections of nearly seventy men who held offices in the college, with excellent sketches of character and interesting anecdotes; and, though some of those of whom he speaks were hardly known outside the college, not a few had a national reputation. It is hardly necessary to add that the venerable author writes, as always, clearly and with hearty nterest in his subject.

The National Sin of Literary Piracy. By HENRY VAN DYKE. New York, Scribner. 16°. 5 cents.

THIS pamphlet is a vigorous protest against the absence in this country of an international copyright law, and against the unwillingness of our people up to this time to enact such a law. There is nothing in the author's argument that is specially new; but the moral principles involved in the subject have seldom been exhibited with greater force and clearness than they are here. Mr. Van Dyke's essay was originally a sermon, and the mere fact that a sermon on the subject could be preached to a popular audience is proof that public interest in the question is already awakened. The author treats the subject from a moral standpoint, maintaining that we have no more right to take a foreign author's work without paying him for it than we have to take any other man's work, literary or otherwise, in the same way. He treats as irrelevant the argument, sometimes adduced by the opponents of international copyright, that the American people want cheap literature. "The question is," he remarks, "how do they propose to gratify that desire, fairly or feloniously? My neighbor's passionate love of light has nothing to do with his right to carry off my candles. The first point to be determined is one of righteousness." He holds, however, that the republication of foreign works is not only wrong, but injurious to our own people, both by hindering the growth of our national literature, and by helping to weaken the national conscience. The book will be found interesting by all who are interested in the subject, and, if read by the right persons, can hardly fail to have some effect on public opinion.

Chemistry, Inorganic and Organic. By CHARLES LOUDON BLOXAM. 6th ed. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 8°. $4.50.

THE appearance of the sixth edition of Professor Bloxam's well-known work follows closely upon the announcement of the death of the author. The general character of the work, its elaborate display of experiment, and practical intent, are the same as in previous editions; but much of the text has been re-written, and the whole revised and passed through the press under the author's own supervision. Much new matter has been incorporated (some of date even so late as the recent isolation of fluorine), and the part which deals with organic chemistry has been recast with a view to bringing theoretical relations more clearly to light. The technological applications of organic chemistry receive considerable attention, and the subject of explosives. In the previous editions, the work has been a favorite, particularly with practical men and students of applied chemistry. The present edition is an improvement upon its predecessors, and a fitting memorial of its lamented author.

Benjamin Franklin as a Man of Letters. By JOHN BACH MCMASTER. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 16°. $1.25.

FRANKLIN'S name has always stood side by side with that of Washington; and there are no other Americans, except perhaps Lincoln and Grant, whose deeds and character are equally well known to the mass of their countrymen. But Franklin's greatness was chiefly in the fields of politics and science, and it is chiefly as politician and scientist that he is generally known; while his strictly literary works, except the autobiography, are much less read than those of many men who, on the whole, are his inferiors. Yet his literary merits are not slight, and the influence of his writings on the opinions and tastes of his contemporaries was great. He was not only the author of the autobiography and of several scientific papers, but he was also the first great American journalist; and in all these capacities he deserves grateful remembrance. It was necessary, therefore, that in a series of works devoted to American men of letters he should have a prominent place, and the sketch of his literary work which Mr. McMaster has written is in most respects worthy of its theme. It gives, perhaps, too little space to the political papers which Franklin wrote so abundantly, and which often had great influence on public opinion and on the course of events. Many paragraphs, too, of Mr. McMaster's work are filled with mere lists of articles that Franklin wrote; and these passages could well have been spared in favor of something more important. Nor do we find so good an account of the development of Franklin's mind and character as we could have wished. Yet, in spite of these defects, the book gives an interesting account of Franklin's writings, with a mass of details relating to his life, his business, his associates, and, in short, every thing connected with his literary work. The result is a work which, as an account of Franklin's place in literature, is not likely to be surpassed.

Franklin's career has always been an example and an incentive to boys and young men that have had to struggle upward from humble beginnings, and deservedly so; for, considering the times in which he lived, his success in politics and science and literature, as well as in acquiring a fortune, was indeed surprising. Mr. McMaster, however, agrees with all other good judges, that Franklin's morality was not of a high order, and that in this respect his life and his philosophy are not what might be wished. "His philosophy," our author remarks, "was the philosophy of the useful; the philosophy whose aim it is to increase the power, to ameliorate the condition, to supply the vulgar wants, of mankind. . . . Morality he never taught, and he was not fit to teach it" (pp. 277, 278). With regard to his electrical discoveries, Mr. McMaster expresses the opinion that Franklin was considerably indebted for valuable hints to his friend Ebenezer Kinnersley; but he does not specify the particular contributions that Kinnersley made to the subject. The author points out, too, in another place, that the plan for a union of the Colonies, which Franklin proposed at Albany at the beginning of the French and Indian war, was borrowed from Daniel Coxe, who had proposed the same plan many years before, when Franklin was a boy. Mr. McMaster's judgment on Franklin considered as a writer only is likely to be generally accepted, and is in brief as follows: "The place to be allotted Franklin among American men of letters is hard to determine. He founded no school of literature. He gave no impetus to letters. He put his name to no great work of history, of poetry, of fiction. Till after his day no such thing as American literature existed. . . . His place is among that giant race of pamphleteers and essayists most of whom went before, but a few of whom came immediately after, the war for independence. And among them he is easily first" (pp. 272, 273).

A Text-Book of Inorganic Chemistry. By VICTOR VON RICHTER. Tr. by Edgar F. Smith. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 12°. $2.

IT is not surprising, however much to be deprecated, that the elementary literature of branches of knowledge like chemistry, which, constantly expanding, are frequently brought to public notice, and so made attractive to the popular imagination, should be perennially deluged by the products of the misguided passion for authorship; nor ought it to be unexpected that the great majority of the many text-books of chemistry, general and applied, which come to the light, should shortly disappear utterly from the notice of an intelligent public. The occasional varying of the usual monotony by the appearance of a work of real value to student and instructor, which proves its claim to appreciation by survival in the competition with its fellows, is refreshing. Richter's text-books are of this sort, and the volume before us represents the third American edition, based upon the fifth edition of the German original.

The scheme of development follows the order of the 'periodic law,' and the introduction of theory is gradual and opportune. Thus the reader is brought directly into contact with the laws of definite and multiple proportions and the conception of atoms and molecules only when the demonstration of the properties of the halogens leads to the point. So, also, the questions of valence and structure wait the presentation of facts with sufficient fulness to