

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 interest 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

show the necessity and worth of the hypotheses advanced. Throughout the inductive method of thought is predominant; but whether the impression left upon the mind of the average student by the disconnected introduction of principles is broad and clear, may be questionable, though the threads are, at least, left in such relation that they may be easily gathered up and properly interwoven.

Thermochemical phenomena claim very considerable attention from the outset, and re-actions are discussed in the light of the law of maximum work. Sometimes, indeed, as it seems, this principle is forced beyond its depth, and phenomena are made to appear as effects of an unvarying law, rather than as illustrations of a principle which has come to be regarded as of by no means universal application. In the main, the spirit of the book is scientific. It is full and minute in the description of processes and facts, well abreast with the times, and for the most part logical and clear, though occasional crudities in the use of English, and now and then an actual lapse from grammatical accuracy, mar, without excuse in a third edition, the general effect. Such faults, though rather less numerous than in the second edition, are particularly noticeable just where they are most undesirable, — in the passages which deal with theories and principles, — and are to be credited largely to the tendency of the translator to cling to the literal rendering of the original rather than strive for an intelligible version. We note with mingled feelings the slight — too slight — improvement over the second edition in the matter of the plate of spectra.

Woman and the Commonwealth. By GEORGE PELLEW. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 8°. 25 cents.

THE pamphlet here before us is a plea for woman suffrage; but we doubt if it will have much influence in promoting its object. The author is so violent a partisan, and so governed by sentiment, that what he says is more likely to repel than attract those whom he wishes to convert. He goes so far as to declare that women are superior to men, both intellectually and morally, and holds that woman's influence in politics would be both purifying and elevating. He examines some of the arguments that have been adduced on the other side, and answers some of them very conclusively; but his reply to others can hardly be considered satisfactory. Moreover, he does not notice what is to many men the chief objection to woman suffrage; namely, the danger that women would be liable to use their political power to enact moral reforms by law, to the great detriment of politics and of morality. There are good things in the pamphlet, however, and those who already agree with its views will doubtless take pleasure in reading it.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first number of *The American Anthropologist* has just been issued. It is highly gratifying to record the establishment of a journal of this scope and character, as it is a sure sign of the growing interest in anthropology. The Anthropological Society of Washington, under whose auspices the journal is published, must be congratulated in its new enterprise, which will be highly welcomed by all students of the science of man. The papers contained in the first number show that the journal will embrace all the numerous branches of anthropology. Dr. James C. Welling contributes an inquiry into the law of Malthus; and it is significant of the Washington school of anthropologists that the first paper is devoted to a study in sociology. Col. F. A. Seely, who has so successfully applied the methods used by the Patent Office for tracing inventions to ethnological questions, gives a review of the development of time-keeping in Greece and Rome. Dr. Frank Baker's 'Anthropological Notes on the Human Hand' deals not only with the physiognomy of the hand, but also with current and ancient beliefs referring to the hand. The last paper of the number is a study of the Chane-abal tribe and dialect of Chiapas, by Dr. D. G. Brinton, in which the learned author compares the extant relics of that language, and gives it its proper place among the Maya dialects. Among the articles promised for future numbers, we notice papers by Maj. J. W. Powell, 'From Barbarism to Civilization'; H. H. Bates, 'Discontinuities in Nature's Methods'; and Dr. A. B. Meyer, 'The Nephrite Question.'

— A despatch from Zanzibar says that messengers from Emin Pacha who passed Uganda on Nov. 17 had no news whatever from Stanley, and that no news of his approach had been received in Wadelai. Further, it is stated in the telegram that King Mwanga has taken a friendly attitude towards Europeans. As Wadelai is only twelve days distant from Uganda, it appears that Stanley had not reached Emin's province in the middle of October. The next mail from the Kongo, which is due towards the end of this month, will probably bring some information regarding the events at Stanley Falls and at the mouth of the Aruvimi, which must have been of some influence upon Stanley's expedition. It seems unnecessary, so far, to entertain serious apprehensions as to his safety.

— "A large circle of admirers, both English and American," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "will see with pleasure that the Murchison medal of the Geological Society is to be conferred this year on Dr. J. S. Newberry of New York, the well-known professor of Columbia College. Dr. Newberry, however, has been in his time active, and indeed distinguished, in other matters besides geology. 'I remember,' writes a correspondent, 'meeting him by chance in Nashville in November, 1863, when he was at the head of the Western department of the Sanitary Commission, — an immense organization whose business it was to dispense, for the benefit of the soldiers of the Republic, great quantities of stores, consisting mainly of medicines, clothing, and comforts of all sorts, subscribed by enthusiastic citizens of the Northern States. Dr. Newberry took me down with him from Nashville to the then seat of war, on the boundary of Georgia, and I can bear witness to the workmanlike manner in which he administered his department, and the devotion with which he was regarded by all his assistants.'"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Errors in 'The Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley.'

IT is an ungracious task to criticise at this late day the work of Messrs. Squier and Davis, which has so long been received as the standard on North American archæology; nevertheless I believe the result will be accepted as a sufficient justification for the attempt.

It is stated in the text (p. 68), under the heading 'The Newark Works,' that the circular structure *E* "is not, as has been generally represented, a true circle; its form is that of an ellipse, its diameters being twelve hundred and fifty feet and eleven hundred and fifty feet respectively. . . . The area of the enclosure is something over thirty acres."

A short calculation will make it evident that an ellipse having the diameters given above will enclose only twenty-six acres. We also notice, that, notwithstanding the authors' statement in the text, their plate (XXV.), which is copied from Colonel Whittlesey's survey, makes the shorter diameter (Section *C-D*), 1,200 feet.

A careful resurvey by the agents of the Bureau of Ethnology makes the diameters 1,205 and 1,197 feet, the latter differing but three feet from Colonel Whittlesey's measurement. The figure is therefore very nearly a true circle, the difference between the diameters being only eight feet, instead of one hundred as given by Squier and Davis.

They also state that the circular enclosure *F*, which connects with the Octagon, "is a true circle two thousand eight hundred and eighty feet, or upwards of half a mile, in circumference." This gives a diameter of but 917 feet, while the section *A-B* of the plate makes it 1,050 feet, — measuring from the gateway to the observatory, — a difference of one hundred and thirty-three feet between the text and plate. According to the survey made by the agents of the bureau, this diameter is 1,058 feet, and the one transverse to it 1,054 feet; the figure varying, in fact, but little from a true circle.

It appears from these facts that the authors, although adopting Colonel Whittlesey's survey in their plate, have differed from it in their text without a word of explanation, the variation in each case being a blunder on their part.

The area of the Octagon, as shown by the resurvey, is but a small fraction over thirty-six acres, including the inner halves of the walls; whereas it is given on the plate as fifty acres, and in the text as "something over fifty acres."