

the banshee. It is of some interest to see how a good matter-of-fact fisherman has deprived the legend of 'Gray Man's Isle' of all that is wonderful. The book is of considerable importance as showing the remarkable transformation which legends undergo under the influence of modern ideas.

A Manual of German Prefixes and Suffixes. By J. S. BLACKWELL. New York, Holt. 16°.

THE present collection of German prefixes is designed as a practical aid to students of German, and meets this purpose very well. It gives to the student a clearer sense of the meaning of many German words than even the best dictionaries can do. The manual is founded principally on Sanders's and Grimm's dictionaries of the German language. The meaning of each prefix and suffix is defined very clearly; and the slight variations of sense conveyed by suffixes—as *-mässig* and *-gemäss*, or *-lein* and *-chen*—are shown by well-selected examples. As the book is designed for practical purposes, no attempt has been made to give the etymology of the prefixes and suffixes. The manual will be of great value to students of German.

Principles and Practice of Morality. By EZEKIEL GILMAN ROBINSON. Boston, Silver, Rogers, & Co. 12°. \$1.50.

THIS work by the president of Brown University consists of the lectures which he has given in past years to his classes in ethics, and, as a text-book on the science, it has some decided merits. The style is good, to begin with, being clear and direct, and free from ostentation. The author is good-tempered also; and though he sometimes criticises other thinkers, and expresses his dissent from them in decided terms, he treats them all with eminent fairness. The book opens with a preliminary discussion of the object and scope of ethics; then follow a series of chapters on conscience, moral law, the will, the ultimate ground of obligation, and other topics in the theory of morals; and a brief account of the leading duties of man closes the volume. The chapter on the ultimate ground of obligation is, of course, the most important of all; and we are obliged to say that we do not find it satisfactory. Dr. Robinson examines the various theories that have been propounded by other writers, including the intuitionist, the utilitarian, and others, all of which he rejects for one reason or another, and then gives it as his own view that the ultimate ground of moral obligation is to be found in the nature of God as a perfectly righteous being. But, surely, if we have no ground of obligation in our own souls, if such ground exists only in the nature of God, we can have no means of knowing that God is righteous. If the ground of right and duty is in God's nature alone, then when we say that God is righteous, we can only mean that he always acts according to his own nature; which might with equal truth be predicated of every thing else in the universe. We do not think that Dr. Robinson has contributed any thing to the solution of the fundamental ethical problem; and there are other points in his work to which objections might easily be raised. Yet it contains much that is suggestive; and it will doubtless be useful to students and also for popular reading.

A History of Political Economy. By JOHN KELLS INGRAM. With preface by E. J. James. New York, Macmillan, 1888. 8°.

A HISTORY of political economy in the English language was undoubtedly needed, for the existing works on the subject were by no means satisfactory. We have many good histories of practical economy in its various branches; but a good history of economic theories, such as Mr. Ingram here undertakes to give us, has long been a desideratum. In many respects this treatise is excellent. The author shows a very wide acquaintance with the literature of the subject in the leading languages, and he has evidently given a great deal of study to all the various schools. He sketches in brief the course of economic thought in ancient and mediæval times, but agrees with all other writers in recognizing economic science as strictly a product of modern times. He remarks that the mercantile system was the natural outgrowth of certain social conditions acting on unscientific minds, and then proceeds to trace the origin and progress of scientific economics, beginning with the physiocrats and other writers of the eighteenth century. The leading contributors to the science are all passed in review, and the works of

most of them well characterized. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Ingram is an extreme partisan of the historical school; and his partisanship has led him to underestimate the work of some of the great English writers, especially of Malthus, Ricardo, and Mill, whose defects he sees far more clearly than their merits. We find no fault with the author for treating his subject from the standpoint of his own school; but then he ought to do it in good temper, and without that irritation against men of opposite views which this book sometimes exhibits. Nevertheless, the work contains much valuable information, and will fill a useful place.

The Study of Politics. By WILLIAM P. ATKINSON. Boston, Roberts. 16°. 50 cents.

THIS little work is the introduction to a course of lectures on constitutional history, delivered by the author at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. What particular benefit its publication will confer upon the general public we are unable to see. The book is written in bad temper throughout, with constant innuendoes against the men and classes with whom the author disagrees. It is mainly devoted to practical politics and the duties of citizenship, with very little in it that can be called scientific. Moreover, what Mr. Atkinson says about the corruption of public life and the duty of good citizens to engage in political work has been said so often by the newspapers in all parts of the country, that its repetition in a book at this late day seems to be unnecessary. If, instead of such matter as this, Mr. Atkinson had given us an introduction to the political and social sciences and to the proper mode of studying them, his work would have been of far more value.

A Manual of Physiology. A Text-Book for Students of Medicine. By GERALD F. YEO, M.D. 3d ed. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 12°. \$3.

YEO'S manual was originally written to supply an elementary treatise on physiology for the series of students' manuals issued by this firm of publishers. Professor Yeo has succeeded in supplying a book which is well adapted to the wants of medical students. He has fully carried out the task which he undertook; viz., to avoid theories which have not borne the test of time, and such details of methods as are unnecessary for junior students. He has also omitted the history of the progressive steps in the growth of physiological science and the names of authorities, all of which would be but confusing to the student. In doing this he has taken care not to omit any important facts that are necessary to a clear understanding of the principles of physiology. The first edition, which appeared in 1884, being exhausted, a second has been prepared in which all important advances have been noted. The principal change which we observe is the entire revision of the chapters on the central nervous system, and their fuller illustration by means of drawings of the microscopical structure of the spinal cord. Yeo's manual has from the first stood in the front rank, but this recent edition will cause it to occupy a still higher position among the manuals of physiology.

Education in Bavaria. By Sir PHILIP MAGNUS. New York, Industrial Education Association. 12°.

WE hear a great deal about education in Germany, and not unfrequently overlook the fact that in matters of considerable importance the practice of the several German states is at variance. Prussia usually serves as the model for the rest, and but little attention is directed to Bavaria, Baden, Wurtemberg, and Saxony. As a member of the late Royal Commission on Technical Instruction, Sir Philip Magnus was led to make a careful examination of the educational practice in Bavaria, and it has been deemed of sufficient importance to be published as the second number of the Educational Monograph Series. Mr. Magnus suggests that the title is somewhat too general for the subject of which his paper treats; for his main object has been to show his English and American readers what is meant by a 'school system' in which each element bears a definite relation to all the others. The Bavarian school system is a typical one of these, in which organization and interdependence are pushed as far as they will go. The plan of the system is made very clear by an illustrative diagram. The paper is extremely compact, and does not lend itself to abridgment or con-