

Practical Education. By CHARLES G. LELAND. London, Whitaker. 12°.

THIS is an essentially vicious book. In these days, when all enlightened educators are calling for meat, it is an outrage to offer them such a stone as this. It is the more vicious because it is offered in the guise of a contribution to the literature of the new education. Some things in it are good, many are nonsensical, and all are superficial. There is no grasp of education shown in it, no psychological power, and no connected account of any successful practical experience. The number of times that the words 'I,' 'my,' 'mine,' 'me,' etc., occur is sufficiently numerous—or sufficiently innumerable—to characterize the work. It contains no reference, at least no intelligent reference, to the manual-training movement which is revolutionizing the American schools and the traditional course of study. It offers no suggestions as to the co-ordination in various grades of schools of 'industrial-art education' and the ordinary studies.

We fear that the title of this book may commend it to the attention of many who are conscientiously studying contemporary educational thought. We warn such readers that Mr. Leland's book is superficial, that it is crude, that it is representative of no important educational movement. Some of the points on which the author touches are in themselves commendable, and have been taken up by other writers. When this has happened, they have usually been based on some educational principle. With the author of this book they seem to be mere 'flashes in the pan.' He has not discovered that an 'art-writer' and an 'educator' are not necessarily convertible terms.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first number of the journal of the American Folk-Lore Society, which was recently organized, has just been issued under the title *The Journal of American Folk-Lore*. It shows how much work may be accomplished by a society of this character, and that the establishment of a centre for collecting the fast-vanishing remains of American lore was a necessity. The journal is devoted to the study of the relics of Old English lore, as well as to that of the Indians, negroes, and other immigrants, and the first number contains articles on each of these subjects. Prof. T. F. Crane contributes a paper on the theory of the diffusion of popular tales, while H. Carrington Bolton gives an interesting collection of the counting-out rhymes of children. The general editor, Mr. W. W. Newell, studies the alleged Vaudoux (Voodoo) worship and child-sacrifice in Hayti, and arrives at the conclusion that it is the old superstition regarding the Waldenses that has been transplanted to America. The Vaudoux of Hayti are the Waldenses of France, the word having been introduced in the seventeenth century; and the alleged practices of the latter are now ascribed to the Vaudoux. The second half of the volume is devoted to Indian lore. Dr. D. G. Brinton gives some remarks on the Lenâpé, Rev. W. M. Beauchamp relates tales of the Onondaga, while Rev. J. Owen Dorsey and Dr. F. Boas have articles on myths and customs of Dakota and British Columbian tribes. Much interesting and valuable information has been collected in the 'Folk-Lore Scrap-Book,' and students will find the bibliographical notes very useful. The first number of the journal augurs well for the development and usefulness of the society.

—Records of about 3,500 orders received by A. A. Marks, New York, for an artificial arm or leg are found sufficiently full to enable them to be tabulated for statistical purposes. Of all the artificial limbs made by the firm, 85 per cent are legs, and 15 per cent arms. This small percentage for arms may be explained by the fact that fewer persons who have lost their arms supply themselves with artificials than those who have lost their lower extremities, inasmuch as it is easier for a man to go through this world with one arm than with one leg; and, besides, an artificial arm for amputation above the elbow is of so little service, aside from appearance, that few persons with amputations above the elbow ever use them. Taking these facts into consideration, the percentages referring to arms cannot be regarded of very much value in estimating the comparative restorations of the upper and lower extremities. Of all the legs taken into consideration, 49 per cent are right, 46 per cent are left, and 5

per cent both. The above figures show that the proportion of right legs amputated to left is nearly even, with the small difference of three per cent in favor of the right. Seventy-eight per cent of legs amputated are of males, and twenty-two per cent of females. The proportion for double amputations of males is nearly double that of females. This may be explained by the fact that males are more frequently placed in jeopardy than females. Over one-half of all the amputations are between the knee and ankle, with a larger percentage for males. Of all the arms manufactured by the firm, ninety-two per cent are for males, and eight per cent for females.

—A. H. Worthen, State geologist of Illinois, is dead.

—Mrs. Emma W. Hayden has given to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in trust, the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars, to be known as the Hayden Memorial Geological Fund, in commemoration of her husband, the late Prof. Ferdinand V. Hayden, LL.D. According to the terms of the trust, a bronze medal, and the balance of the interest arising from the fund, are to be awarded annually for the best publication, exploration, discovery, or research in the sciences of geology and paleontology, or in such particular branches thereof as may be designated. The award, and all matters connected therewith, are to be determined by a committee to be selected in an appropriate manner by the academy. The recognition is not to be confined to American naturalists.

—Two living buffaloes, the gift of Fish Commissioner Blackford of this city have been added to the small collection of animals gathered in the Smithsonian grounds in Washington during the past few months. A bill has already been introduced into Congress for the purchase of a large tract of the beautiful suburban lands lying along Rock Creek, just outside of the city limits of Washington, and the establishment upon it of a government zoölogical garden. The bill may not be passed this year, but the few living animals now in possession of the National Museum are no doubt the nucleus of what will in a few years be a very important national zoölogical collection. Professor Hornaday has been made curator of living animals.

—An exhibition of the first year's industrial work in the Washington public schools will be given at the close of the present month. Professor Powell, the superintendent, does not expect to make as brilliant a display as that recently made in Philadelphia, and in other cities where manual training was introduced earlier; but he will show astonishing results, when it is considered that only five thousand dollars has been spent in fitting up shops and cooking-schools, and a year's expenses, including materials used, and that the pupils whose work will be exhibited have had instruction only one hour a week for a year.

—A geographical society has been formed in Peru for the purpose of collecting and publishing information regarding Peru. The society, which will be known by the name 'Geographical Society of Lima,' counts a number of eminent explorers and scientists of South America among its founding members.

—The Government of Ontario is about to take more energetic measures for the development of its mines, and as a preliminary step has appointed a royal commission to inquire into and report upon the subject. Members of the commission are Dr. R. Bell of the Canadian Geological Survey; W. H. Merritt, mining engineer; W. Coe, proprietor of the Madoc iron-mines; and A. Blue, deputy minister of agriculture; while John Charlton is chairman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

* * Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.

Twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent on request.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

Is the Rainfall increasing on the Plains?

MR. CURTIS does a service in calling attention to the serious error in the rainfall record of Fort Leavenworth for January, 1871 and 1872. It is to be hoped that any errors of this kind will be similarly pointed out.