events in many nations, and in many different departments of human activity; and in this respect it has eminent advantages over most other chronological works.

We should add that both the works here noticed are provided with elaborate indexes, which greatly enhance their usefulness.

Physical and Industrial Training of Criminals. By HAMILTON D. WEY. (Monographs of the Industrial Education Association, Vol. I. No. 3.) New York, Industr. Educ. Assoc.

AMONG the many innovations in penal science introduced at the New York State Reformatory, there is perhaps none with so great an interest to the scientist and the educator as the experiment of reaching the unresponsive intellects of refractory and stupid criminals through their muscles. This experiment, noticed in these columns some time ago, carried with it the proof of its success. It was due to the author of this pamphlet, Dr. H. D. Wey, physician to the reformatory at Elmira. In the present pamphlet Dr. Wey rehearses this experiment, and surrounds it with a valuable analysis of the criminal character, — the only sound basis of true and lasting reform. He here portrays the deviation of the psychophysical organism of the criminal from that of his more fortunate fellowmen, and deduces from it the sound conclusion that the only method of restoring the criminal to a worthy place in the community is to re-organize that fundamental re-action between an individual and his environment that makes crime tempting. For this purpose one must educate the criminal, and that not only in the usual sense of literary instruction, but with the additional meaning of re-forming the habits of his body and mind; and when, in especially dull and sluggish men, it was found that a direct appeal to the will and the intellect was unsatisfactory, the logical step was taken of treating the muscles, the physiological organs of the will: for modern physiology tells us that in muscular exercise we develop not only the muscle, but, more important, the nerve-cell that controls its action; we are building brain and power alike. Such a purely physical training brought the average marks of a dozen most unpromising men for purely intellectual studies from 46 per cent to 71 per cent. The effect is immediate, and, if the treatment is sufficiently prolonged, is lasting.

The second portion of the pamphlet is devoted to the industrial system at Elmira. Idleness is the source of a good share of the world's misery; and every moment of a prisoner's life ought to be systematically occupied. Moreover, the work should be made as interesting as possible, not assume the air of a task imposed as a process of torture. Add to this, that the industrial training must be such as to fit the liberated man to earn his livelihood, and at once (for it is immediately after liberation that the greatest danger exists), and it seems to follow as a necessary deduction that the reformatory workshop must approximate to the real hives of production in the surrounding world. In addition, the educational value of manual training is to be made a special point. This is what the reformatory at Elmira is attempting to do; and the success of the enterprise, after it is properly understood both by the men themselves and by the public, seems beyond question. This monograph, it is hoped, will be the means of extending the sound teachings and practices in vogue at the New York Reformatory.

Negro Myths from the Georgia Coast. By CHARLES C. JONES, Jun. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 12°.

THE title of this book is not quite correct, for the tales told in it are not myths, but fables. Some such stories had already been collected by other writers; but Mr. Jones has found in the swamp region of Georgia and the Carolinas a comparatively unknown field, in which he has gleaned much that is new. The stories are told in the *patois* of the negroes themselves; which seems to us a mistake, as they are not only harder to read, but less interesting, than they would be in correct English. Moreover, many of the linguistic peculiarities are mere mispronunciations, while others are contractions such as we all use in conversation, and only a few are real dialectical characteristics.

The characters in the fables are mostly animals, the rabbit being the favorite, while the wolf and the alligator are frequently introduced. The stories show not a little ingenuity and humor, and some of them are quite entertaining. One of the best is that about the monkey who didn't know what trouble was, and who went to the Devil to find out. The Devil gave him a closed bag, and told him to go out into the midst of a large field near by, and then open the bag, and he would find an answer to his inquiry. The monkey obeyed, and when he had reached the middle of the field opened the bag, when out jumped a bull-dog. The monkey started and ran, and the dog ran after him until they reached a wood, when the monkey succeeded in climbing a tree, but not without the loss of his tail. The dog staid by the tree and watched till he was hungry, and had to go off in search of food. Then the monkey came down and went home to his wife, telling her that he had had enough of trouble. The moral is obvious: never search for trouble, but wait till it comes to you.

Besides the fables, a few other stories are given, the most important being those relating to the negro belief in spirits, fetiches, and charms. These show, what was already known from other sources, that the Southern negroes are hardly less superstitious in some respects than their African ancestors, and that a great deal will have to be done to raise them to the level of civilization.

Lessons in Geometry, for the Use of Beginners. By G. A. HILL, A.M. Boston, Ginn. 12°.

THIS admirable little book is a grammar-school geometry, and as such lies midway between the courses in geometrical drawing followed in some of our city schools, and a course in ordinary demonstrative geometry. It is intended to follow the study of arithmetic. The method followed is in great part that of question and answer. Each new idea is put in very simple language. Definitions are carefully explained, and in many cases illustrated by cuts. In short, every difficulty which the pupil is likely to meet with seems to have been anticipated. The few demonstrations that are given are all based on the method of equal triangles. The most important feature of the book is the large number of exercises. Of these, those which involve the metric system are separated from the others, and can be omitted if desired. A cheap case of drawing-instruments accompanies the book. The book is adapted to the needs of every grammar-school in the country, and could with advantage be used in all of them. For practical knowledge gained, few branches would better repay the time devoted to the study of this book. It is printed in the elegant style in which the publishers are accustomed to issue their works. G. W. SAWIN.

Trigonometry for Beginners. By Rev. J. B. LOCK, M.A. New York, Macmillan, 1886. 16°. 60 cents.

THIS little book is an abridgment of the 'Elementary Trigonometry' by the same author. Very little knowledge of geometry is assumed. Some points, such as the circular measure of an angle, the fact that the ratios depend only on the magnitude of the angle, and the explanation of tables, are much better put than it is customary to find them. The book also contains a very large number (about seven hundred and fifty) of exercises, which are much better chosen than those in the trigonometries in common use, those in formula-work being particularly good. These exercises, together with the low price of the book, make it especially valuable as a secondary treatise for teachers who are using another text-book. The book is too small for the amount it contains, and as a consequence its pages are much crowded.

Geometry in Space. By R. C. J. NIXON, M.A. Oxford, Clarendon Pr. 12°. (New York, Macmillan, 90 cents.)

THIS is a brief treatment of solid geometry, modelled on that of Euclid. A short introduction on perspective is prefixed, however, and some modern ideas are introduced, such as anharmonic ratio, similitude, inversion, and poles and polars, these subjects being very briefly treated. The number of exercises is also large. A chapter on the geometrical theory of perspective is appended. The book is well printed, but would be much improved if the type were larger.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE third part of the annual report of the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania has just been issued. It treats of the operations in the anthracite-coal region, and is accompanied by an atlas, embracing the coal-region, and based upon the triangulation of the United