tution, and, so far as we know, immunity can be purchased only by submitting to attack. We are surrounded by its infection, and cannot escape. Ordinarily the human constitution succumbs to its influence before maturity is reached; but if, up to that period, we fortunately escape, we have no assurance of future immunity. Uncertainty overhangs us like a cloud. Danger is as present with us in the daily routine of our peaceful lives as on the battle-field, only that the embodiment of evil is an invisible and intangible germ instead of a fast-flying bullet. Danger flows beside us in our streams, in our mains, from the taps in our houses. The germ of disease may not be in this pitcherful or in that, in this tumblerful or in that, but it will find us some day if we continue to use the water which contains it. In a town of fifty thousand inhabitants, one victim is taken daily; and, as the average duration of this fever is about a month, there are always in that city thirty persons whose lives are unnecessarily trembling in the balance. What is the local suffering from yellow-fever in Jacksonville, Pensacola, or New Orleans, once in so many years, compared with the totality of the devastation caused by the steady progress of this general and ever-present scourge? Thirty thousand people die of typhoid-fever annually in the United States of America; and Vienna lowered her losses by this fever from three hundred and forty to eleven annually in every hundred thousand of her population by introducing a spring-water supply instead of the sewage-tainted waters of the Danube. Calculate the loss by sickness associated with these thirty thousand deaths, — the loss of work, the unprofitable work of nursing, and the actual outlay necessitated by each visitation of the disease, — and you will find that saving money by drinking sewage in the water-supply is a penny-wise policy, that, in the long-run, will fail to pay even for the funerals and mourning goods.

The importance of acting promptly is insisted upon, as, the longer a community procrastinates, the greater is the difficulty experienced in procuring a desirable supply of water, owing to the increasing density of the population of the surrounding country. Having obtained a pure supply, every square foot of the drainage area should be familiar to the sanitary inspector, that the life and health of the citizen may not be endangered by that which was intended as a benefit. Every case of typhoid-fever occurring on such an area should be specially watched, and the infection of the dejecta destroyed. But as the efforts of local authorities, such as water companies and boards, citizens' committees, health boards and commissioners, would often be powerless without the intervention of the authorities of the State, a livelier interest in this important matter is urged on the part of the State boards of health, — an interest which is not satisfied with discussing and subscribing to views of the subject, but which will leave nothing undone that will tend to invest them with power to act for the preservation of the public health. With all our boards operating, each within its domain, there would be no need of committees to investigate the subject of water-pollution.

The report concludes with a resolution that will tend to strengthen the hands of the State boards, — that it is the well-considered belief of the American Public Health Association that great good would accrue to the public health, particularly in the denser settlements, if State legislatures would give their boards of health that financial support which would enable them to act intelligently on all questions pertaining to the public water-supplies, investing them with the supervision of the said supplies, and with power to preserve them from contamination by sewage or other injurious matters.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

The Young Idea; or, Common-School Culture. By CAROLINE B. LEROW. New York, Cassell.

THE lady who has with much labor compiled this little book has done a genuine service to the cause of educational reform: for she has pierced the shams of the present curriculum with the shafts of ridicule, and so reached many readers who would have paid no attention to a more formal argument. In 'English as She is taught,' the same writer attacked one branch of instruction: in the present book she attacks the vicious principle that runs through the teaching of all the branches. That she has worked to some purpose is testified by the sneers of *Education*, an ardent defender of every thing that is worn out; for, argument in reply failing, some harsh expletives and ill-timed jibes were resorted to by that antiquated periodical in order to break the force of Mrs. LeRow's indictment.

It would be a serious mistake to suppose that Mrs. LeRow's object is to amuse, though her book contains many amusing things. "Repugnant, one who repugs," is the natural answer of a boy who has been taught what the schoolmasters are pleased to call etymology, by the mechanical method. As the author suggests, the child who defined arithmetic as the "sins of numbers" had an almost supernatural insight into the difference between the way in which he was being taught and the way in which he should be taught. And the following is too good to pass unnoticed (we will all agree with Mrs. LeRow that it would have rejoiced Lord Byron's heart): "A critic is something to put your feet on to." The self-evidence of this will also be appreciated by all but the book-writers and book-publishers: "Grammar is something to talk good, and is devided into digrams on the blagboard. I cant never learn to do grammar." "The Saxon Cronical was the seven deadly sins," is a sufficiently startling statement to indicate that bad teaching is not confined to the lower grades: it seems to reach at least to the history classes.

These quotations might be multiplied at great length, but to cite too many of them would perhaps emphasize too much the merely illustrative side of Mrs. LeRow's work. She is not jesting: she is in sober earnest. She knows of what she writes. She has been in the schools, and seen and heard what she speaks of. She has a gospel to preach. It is a protest against educational indifference, a call to the study and criticism of educational methods. To remedy these defects and bring about the necessary reforms, many things are necessary. Politicians and time-servers must be ejected from the school-boards; inefficient and mechanical superintendents and principals must be retired; and raw, untrained, and immature girls, yet in their teens, must no longer be given an opportunity to dull and stupefy thousands of child-minds under the protection and in the service of the State. Until public opinion is aroused, no one of these steps can be taken, and Mrs. LeRow should be loyally aided and encouraged in her self-imposed task of arousing public opinion.

Hand-Book of Historical and Geographical Phthisiology, with Special Reference to the Distribution of Consumption in the United States. By GEORGE A. EVANS, M.D. New York, Appleton. 12°. $2.

IN this volume Dr. Evans has given us a sketch of the development of our knowledge of pulmonary consumption from the time of Hippocrates to the present day, together with the ascertained facts regarding the geographical distribution of that affection. In addition to this, he has arranged the statistics in regard to this distribution in the United States so as to make them available for convenient reference in selecting localities of resort or residence for invalids, and also for those who are in health. He coincides with Hirsch in designating consumption as a ubiquitous disease, extending over every part of the habitable globe. Taking the mean death-rate of the whole of a population to be twenty-two per thousand, the average of deaths from phthisis would be nearly one-seventh of the whole mortality, or three per thousand, of the population. Estimating the total yearly mortality of the world to be thirty-five million, five million of these deaths are attributable to consumption, — the greatest number caused by any single disease.

The consideration of the geographical distribution of consumption in the United States is based on the 'United States Census of 1880,' and Rand & McNally's 'Atlas of 1887.' The same is true of those portions of the book which treat of the topography and climate of States, and of the number of deaths from consumption in the different States and cities. The etiology of the disease is discussed at length, and the views of Hirsch, Hunter, Lindsay, Bowditch, Elliott, Hermann, Müller, Koch, and others, are referred to.

Concerning the conclusions which may be deduced from the evidence submitted in regard to the geographical distribution of phthisis, Dr. Evans says that he can do no better than to quote the

following brief summary from Hirsch: "Phthisis is everywhere prevalent, but is rare in polar regions, and rarer still at great altitudes. The main factor in its production is overcrowding and bad hygiene. Heat and cold, *per se*, have no influence. Damp, when conjoined with frequent oscillations of temperature, predisposes to the disease; but humidity of the air is less important than dampness of the soil. Occupation is extremely important, but mainly indirectly, as tending to good or bad hygienic conditions." With reference to the part played by the tubercle bacillus, Dr. Evans says it is reasonable to believe that it holds the same etiological relation to pulmonary phthisis that certain other micro-organisms hold to external surgical affections, to septic diseases of the (post-partum) uterus or its contiguous tissues, etc. He thinks that there can be no doubt that pulmonary phthisis occasionally terminates in recovery, and refers to cases reported by competent observers in which such a result has followed. He believes that the respiration of antiseptic air by phthisical subjects will be found in the future to be as successful in the treatment of consumption as topical antiseptic influences have been in the treatment of external surgical affections.

Although Dr. Evans states in the preface that his treatise is made up, to a great extent, of the observations of others, and for the most part in their own words, still he deserves great credit for the admirable manner in which he has arranged the material, and for the excellent judgment displayed in selecting from the writings of others all that is most valuable, and pertinent to the subject.

The Story of Holland. By JAMES E. THOROLD ROGERS. New York, Putnam. 12°.

THIS book, the last in the Story of the Nations Series, is in some respects an admirable work. The author's conception of history, and his view of what is important in human affairs, are excellent. In particular, he gives but small space to those military operations which are the main element in most popular histories, and confines himself to the far more essential movements of political, intellectual, and commercial life. He conceives very clearly and correctly the part played by Holland in the history of modern Europe, though we think he overrates its importance. He declares that "the resistance made by Holland to the Spanish king was infinitely more heroic, far more desperate, much more successful, and infinitely more significant," than that made by the Greeks against the Persians; and this is surely a gross exaggeration. The Greeks were the founders of civilization, and its very existence depended on the success of their struggle, and this cannot be said of the Dutch war or any other in history. Nevertheless the great importance of the Dutch contest is undeniable, not merely as affecting Holland itself, but even more in its influence on the politics of Europe. For two centuries the little republic was one of the chief centres of European life; and Mr. Rogers shows clearly how intimately her prosperity was connected with that of the great nations around her. The war of independence necessarily occupies the chief place in the story; but the decline of her freedom, and her influence, are also narrated, and the causes of the same are made plain.

With the general conception of Mr. Rogers's work, then, there is little fault to find; but we cannot say the same of the execution. The author seems to assume that his readers are already familiar with the history of England and the general history of Europe; for he perpetually alludes to events outside of Holland which no one not thus informed can possibly understand. The worst example of this is in the thirty-third chapter, which treats of the war of the Spanish succession. The author does not announce his subject at all, but begins by making indirect allusions to it; and nowhere in the chapter is there any clear statement of what the war was about. In the same chapter Marlborough is frequently alluded to, and always by that name, and then all at once he is spoken of as John Churchill. But there is also a still worse defect in the book: it is full of grammatical blunders and other mistakes of language, the most frequent being the disagreement of the verb with its subject. Thus, we read that "piracy and buccaneering was practised;" that "scenes like those of 1672 was threatened;" and that "the spirits of the Dutch was a little raised." So the author says of a certain Englishman that he "learnt all his learning from Dutch sources," and elsewhere alludes to certain bad harvests as "even more disastrous in France than they even were in England." Such blunders occur at frequent intervals throughout the book, and seriously detract from its merit.

Patriotic Reader; or, Human Liberty Developed. By HENRY B. CARRINGTON. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 8°.

THIS book is a collection of extracts from various writers and speakers, expressing the sentiment of patriotism, and intended to cultivate that sentiment in the mind of the reader. The authors are mostly American, and the passages given are on various topics, such as the lives and character of eminent men, the deeds of heroes, the blessings of liberty, the future of America, and other themes on which our popular writers and orators are fond of descanting. One chapter consists entirely of "Patriotic and National Hymns, Songs, and Odes," while the rest of the book is mainly prose. Many of the passages given are excellent, but we confess that in the book as a whole there is altogether too much hifalutin and self-glorification to suit our taste. This constant boasting of our country and her institutions is both disagreeable and mischievous, as tending to develop national conceit. Our political organization and our fundamental laws are indeed excellent, but our civilization as a whole is by no means high; and it behooves us to think of our deficiencies and try to remedy them rather than to be perpetually glorying in the liberty our fathers gave us. The compiler of this book, however, seems unaware that we have any deficiencies, and therefore the most important duties of the patriot at the present day cannot be learned from his pages.

The Economic Interpretation of History. By JAMES E. THOROLD ROGERS. New York, Putnam. 8°.

PROF. MICHAEL FOSTER has spoken, in a recent paper, of the possibility that in the future the sciences of morphology and physiology may come together again, because of the interdependence of their subject-matters, form, and function, just as the growing specialization of science started them on different lines in the not very remote past. The same thing is true, in a most interesting and suggestive sense, of history and economics. The former is the morphology of society, and the latter its physiology; and, while they have been far apart in the past, they are clearly approaching each other at present. The so-called 'historical' school of economists, and the so-called 'historical' method in economic science, are evidence of this; and Prof. Thorold Rogers, in the Oxford lectures which constitute the book before us, has done something to make the community of the historical and economic fields intelligible. The writer's elaborate researches into the condition of labor and wages in England for the past six hundred years, have made possible — perhaps suggested — the present volume.

The keynote of the book is struck in the following passage from the preface: "The distrust in ordinary political economy has been loudly expressed by workingmen. The labor question has been discussed by many economists with a haughty loftiness which is very irritating. The economist, it is true, informs them that all wealth is the product of labor, that wealth is labor stored in desirable objects, that capital is the result of saved labor, and is being extended and multiplied by the energies of labor. Then he turns round and rates these workmen for their improvidence, their recklessness, their incontinence in foolishly increasing their numbers, and hints that we should all be better off if they left us in their thousands, while there are many thousands of well-off people whose absence from us would be a vast gain. I have never read, in any of the numerous historical works which political economists have written, any attempt to trace the historical causes of this painful spectacle, or to discover whether or no persistent wrong-doing has not been the cause of English pauperism. . . . My treatment of my subject, then, is as follows. You have a number of social or economical facts, many of them containing problems of a serious and urgent character. So serious are they, that many persons — an increasingly large number of persons — demand, if no other solution is to be given, that society must be constructed on new lines, as Frankenstein made his man, or monster. To meet these people with the law of supply and demand, to point out to them the bliss of unrestricted competition, and to rebuke them with the Malthusian law of population, the Ricardian theory of rent, and the margin of unproductive cultivation, is to