

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

present them with logomachies which they resent. . . . Many of the problems which vex society have an historical origin, sometimes a present cause, though more rarely. Now, I have made it my business in these lectures . . . to examine into and expound the history of social facts." Professor Rogers does not fail to express himself as to the folly and shortsightedness of purely speculative economics. Passages where his opinion concerning such treatment of his science is freely made known abound in these pages. One of the cleverest and most timely is this: "Perhaps the most remarkable Nemesis which has come on the speculative economist is that the definition of Population by Malthus, and the definition of Rent by Ricardo, have been made the keystone to Mr. Henry George's theory, under which he demands the confiscation of Rent in the interests of Population."

The close connection between the rise and power of the great cities of Germany and Italy, and the development of transcontinental commerce, we all know about. We are not so clear, however, about the historical causes of early English labor legislation, of the rise of the various forms of tenancy, and of ship-money; or about the economic effects of the guilds, the apprentice system,

French Painting.' The book is compact with biographical and other statistical details, and has an account of the fostering of art by the State, which in France has always played so large a part in æsthetic development. An account is given of the French Academy of Painting, with its *salons*, schools of instruction, etc.; and not only the masterpieces of French painting, but all works of either individual interest or historical importance, are critically described, and their location in public and private galleries is pointed out. It is useful as a book of reference and for general reading. The paintings which have been reproduced include Meissonier, Millet, Troyon, Bouguereau, Watteau, Gérôme, David, Poussin, Daubigny, Bastien-Lepage, etc.

— *The Popular Science Monthly* for last July contained an article on house-drainage, which excited much interest and criticism. This vital subject will be further treated from various points of view in the January *Monthly*, in an illustrated article by Dr. John S. Billings, U.S.A., who is an acknowledged authority on sanitary science. Among other articles, we note 'The Guiding-Needle on an Iron Ship,' by Lieut.-Commander T. A. Lyons; and 'Science



From 'A History of French Painting.'

THE THREE MUSES.

Charles Scribner's Sons.

and the income-tax. On all of these subjects Professor Rogers writes clearly and learnedly.

The valuable chapter on the origin and history of *laissez faire* is, in our judgment, one of the very best in the book. We should go a step beyond Professor Rogers in criticising that principle and pointing out its inherent fallacies; but his very conservatism on this subject, and the measured force of his words, will carry greater weight with his *laissez-faire* countrymen than would an analysis of a more radical and far-reaching character. We lay the book down with the feeling that in reading it we have obtained a clearer insight both into the economic facts of the past and into the economic science of the future.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

MODERN art has been so largely and so directly influenced by the French schools of painting, that a new work which analyzes and traces to its source this influence will be sure of a hearty welcome. The comprehensiveness of Mrs. Stranahan's 'A History of French Painting' (New York, Scribner) is its distinctive feature. More than any other national art except Italian, and more than any other modern art whatever, the course of French painting has been an evolution. Each school has clearly arisen out of national æsthetic conditions, and each one has legitimately developed its successor. No work, of the same general kind even, so distinctly presents this scientific historical interest as does this 'History of

and its Accusers,' by W. D. Le Sueur. In the same number Mr. E. R. Shaw will tell how he made geometry a pleasure to his pupils, using the 'Inventional Geometry' prepared by Herbert Spencer's father.

— The November number of the *American Meteorological Journal*, Ann Arbor, Mich., contains articles on 'The Influence of Forests upon the Rainfall and the Flow of Streams,' by Prof. George F. Swain, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; on 'Tornadoes,' by Dr. Gustavus Hinrichs, director of the Iowa Weather Service; and on 'Diurnal Cloud and Wind Periods, at Blue Hill Observatory during 1887,' by H. H. Clayton; etc.

— A. B. Ward, the author of 'Hospital Life,' in a recent issue of *Scribner's*, will contribute to the January number 'The Invalid's World,' which includes the doctor, nurse, and visitor. It is now known that 'A.B. Ward' is the pen-name of a woman. Dr. George P. Fisher of Yale will write regarding the amenities which should be observed in all respectable controversies, but which are generally violated. In General Alexander's article on 'Railway Management,' the mystery of making time-tables will be explained. Ex-Postmaster-General Thomas L. James will contribute an article on 'The Railway Postal Service,' and W. C. Brownell's group of essays on 'French Traits' will be continued. The Right Rev. Henry C. Potter, bishop of New York, will contribute the final paper to *Scribner's Magazine* for February. It is in the series by eminent men, which replaces Mr. Stevenson's monthly essays.