

philosophy," she has at least made a considerable contribution to humorous literature.

*Healing Question.* By SIR HENRY VANE. (Old South Leaflets. No. 6.) Boston, D. C. Heath & Co.

*The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.* (Old South Leaflets, No. 8.) Boston, D. C. Heath & Co.

THESE little pamphlets relate to the beginnings of written constitutions. Vane's paper appeared at that time in the history of the English commonwealth when serious dissensions had arisen in what he calls "the honest party," and was written with the hope of settling the difficulty. It proposed the expedient, now so familiar but then first suggested, of a national convention to prepare a constitution of government by which both people and rulers should be bound. The proposal was not acted on by the people of England, but its appearance is an event of some importance in political history. The rest of the ideas in Vane's pamphlet are those commonly held by the leading patriots of his time; and the clumsy and intricate style in which they are expressed makes the work any thing but agreeable reading. The earliest written constitution, according to Mr. Mead, the editor of these "leaflets," is that adopted by the people of Connecticut in 1638; and this constitution, with the one adopted the next year by the colony of New Haven, is here reprinted. The New Haven document is largely ecclesiastical; the Church is dealt with as well as the State, all public officers are to be church members, and in the popular convention itself all questions are settled "by sundry arguments from scripture." The Connecticut constitution is more strictly political, and its historical distinction renders it well worthy of a place in this series of popular studies.

*The Seventh Annual Report of the State Board of Health of New Hampshire.* Manchester, State. 8°.

THIS report of the State Board of Health to the governor and council is evidence that the year ending April 30, 1888, was an unusually active one in the State of New Hampshire so far as concerns the details of sanitary administration. A greater demand was made for the services of the board by town authorities, local boards of health, and those in charge of public institutions. In addition to this, the advice of the board was sought in hundreds of individual cases and in all sections of the State. These facts are certainly very encouraging, and demonstrate that there is a growing interest, in this State at least, in the subject of sanitation. During the year the legislature enacted a number of important sanitary measures. One of the most important of these placed scarlet-fever and diphtheria among the dangerous pestilential diseases, and gave the board authority for their suppression. Greater powers were extended to health authorities throughout the State in respect to unsanitary dwellings and polluted water-supplies.

One of the most valuable results of the board's labors is that which has come from a sanitary supervision of the summer resorts of the State. The money left by summer visitors at the various resorts aggregates several hundred thousand dollars annually; it builds homes, schoolhouses, churches, and hotels; it increases the valuation of real estate, and in many ways adds to the material prosperity of the towns, villages, and cities. The board recognizes that this great interest should be carefully guarded against the only thing that can ruin it, — disease from neglected sanitation. In the furtherance of this policy, a sewer was constructed at Rye Beach. It conveys the sewage of ten or more of the largest hotels and boarding-houses to the ocean; it is two thousand feet in length, and ten inches in diameter. Its cost was three thousand dollars.

The public water-supply throughout the State has received careful attention. Several towns have constructed water-works, and in every such instance the health of the community has been notably improved. The improvement has been especially marked in the reduction of typhoid-fever.

In the report of 1887 the board gave, in a general way, a statement of the sanitary condition of nearly thirteen hundred school-houses in the State. The surveys of these schools revealed the fact that there was no system used in their construction, and that in a great majority the plans on which they were built were such as might be devised by a carpenter ignorant of architecture and

the requirements of scholars and teachers. These buildings are not ventilated, they are inadequately heated, badly lighted, furnished with a questionable water-supply, and surrounded by foul privies. The present report deals more in detail with these defects, particular attention being given to the schools of Portsmouth and Concord.

The health laws of the State being scattered through the session laws and passed by the various legislatures, great difficulty is experienced by local sanitary officials in determining just what the law is, in reference to any given subject. To obviate this, the board has made a compilation of all such laws, and has published them as an appendix to the present report. The index to the report is very complete. Taken as a whole, this report is a valuable contribution to sanitary literature, and furnishes additional argument for those who maintain that State boards of health should exist throughout the Union, so constituted as to be as permanent as possible, and independent of politics.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE Open Court Publishing Company of Chicago announces the appearance within the present month of an important contribution to experimental psychology by the eminent French scientist, Alfred Binet. The work is entitled "The Psychic Life of Micro-Organisms," and is published with the sanction of the author, who has written a preface especially for the American edition. The essays forming the work appeared originally in the *Revue Philosophique* of Paris, and were afterwards published in part in *The Open Court*. The original cuts have been procured, and new plates and subsequent additions to the text have been incorporated in the work. The monograph of M. Binet is a presentation of the most important results of recent investigations into the world of proto-organisms. M. Binet has added much to the psychology of the microscopic world by these researches. He has opposed many theories, confirmed others, and advanced many conclusions founded upon his personal investigation. The subject is a branch of comparative psychology little known, and, as a rule, imperfectly understood. Psychologists, and all who are interested in questions of biology, will accordingly look forward to the work of M. Binet as a welcome light on the problem of life.

—Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. will publish, about March 1, an important economic work, "Profit-Sharing between Employer and Employee: A Study in the Evolution of the Wages System," by Nicholas P. Gilman (editor of the *Literary World*). It is the first comprehensive work on industrial partnerships in our language. Written in a popular style, Mr. Gilman's work is commended as "valuable from both the scientific and the practical points of view" by President F. A. Walker, Carroll D. Wright, R. T. Ely, and other high authorities. It will undoubtedly awaken wide interest as an instructive and candid discussion of one promising method for the solution of "labor difficulties."

—The February *Magazine of American History* again anticipates the popular desire, and comes, in honor of Washington's birthday, as a "Washington number." Those who are searching for data concerning Washington's presidential career in New York City will welcome Mrs. Lamb's leading article, "Washington as President, 1789-90," a companion piece to her "Inauguration of Washington in 1789," published in December. The frontispiece represents in a group, Washington, his wife and her two grandchildren, at the age and as they appeared in 1789. The copy of Huntington's great painting of "Lady Washington's Reception" fills two full pages, and the key another page. The house New York was building for President Washington also occupies a full page. The sensational feature of the issue, however, is the De Vries portrait of Washington, discovered in Holland the past summer by the Holland Society of New York, while on its pilgrimage there. Rev. Dr. J. Howard Suydam describes the find, and gives also a picture of De Vries, the owner of the portrait. The third article, by Gen. John Cochrane, presents an unpublished letter of Washington in facsimile, written to Hon. James Duane in 1780. The four articles that follow relate to other themes, — "A Canadian-American Liaison," by Watson Griffin of Montreal; "An Oriental Account of the