

giving the student an opportunity to turn to account the study of the preceding two parts, and to acquire a greater command over the language and more self-confidence than by the process of mere translation. Like its fellow-volume in German, this contains a copious double vocabulary.

Elements of Plane Analytic Geometry. By JOHN D. RUNKLE. Boston, Ginn & Co. 8°. \$2.

THE author of this work is Walker professor of mathematics in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston, and the matter composing the first eight chapters of the book has been used by the students of that institute for some few years. The needs of the students have not been lost sight of in the preparation of the book. Though it is necessary that they should become reasonably familiar with the more elementary and fundamental parts of the subject, still the time which they can devote to it is limited. Therefore the earlier chapters are treated with somewhat more fulness than is usual in books of the kind, and particular care has been taken to illustrate and enforce all parts of the subject by a large number of numerical applications. Only the simpler problems have been selected; and an effort has been made to have the number of problems proportioned to the time which the students can profitably devote to them. The latter part of the book is based on a treatise upon conic sections by Charles Smith, M.A., of Cambridge, England, the later chapters following Mr. Smith's work quite closely. Teachers and students besides those in the Institute of Technology will find Professor Runkle's book adapted to their needs.

The Beginner's Reading Book. By EBEN H. DAVIS. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 12°. 42 cents.

THIS little book contains a series of elementary lessons for youngest readers, with appropriate pictorial illustrations, and in these respects it does not differ essentially from other works of a similar kind. But the author has a theory about the best method of teaching children to read, and he explains his method in an introduction. He begins his instructions by talking with his pupils about the various objects provided for them, thus leading them to frame brief sentences about the objects. These sentences are then placed upon a blackboard in script letters, and the children are taught to read them; and not until some twenty weeks have been spent in this way are the pupils to take up their reading-books and begin to read print. Whether this is the best way to teach children to read, experience must decide; but it seems a roundabout process. However, there is an old saying that the shortest way across is sometimes the longest way round; and so Mr. Davis's method may, after all, be the best.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

WE reproduce in this number three illustrations, "The Kitchen," "Jim," and "Canadian Grouse," from "B. C. 1887," a book of travel and adventure in British Columbia, published by Longmans, Green, & Co., and reviewed lately in these columns.

— A contest has long been waged among educators as to which is of greater practical value in education, the classics or the sciences. For many years the friends of the classics had it pretty much their own way, but of late the scientists have been putting in some strong pleas in behalf of their side of the case. The latest of these, about to be issued in book form by S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago, is by the well-known author and scientist, Dr. Alexander Winchell, University of Michigan, and is entitled, "Shall We Teach Geology?" Few, if any, American writers are better qualified for discussing this question than Dr. Winchell. While his treatise is a special plea for teaching geology in the public schools, it is intended to cover the whole ground of contest between the sciences and the classics, and hence promises to be of great interest, not only to teachers, but to all who are interested in observing the tendencies of modern education.

— Charles Scribner's Sons have just ready "French Traits," by W. C. Brownell, an analysis of French character and French society. The method of criticism is comparative throughout, the social

customs, intellectual habits, art instincts, and moral standards of the French being brought into juxtaposition with those that prevail in the United States. They have also just ready a treatise on metaphysics, by Dr. James McCosh, entitled "First and Fundamental Truths," which is regarded by the author as the keystone of what



From "B.C. 1887."

Longmans, Green, & Co.

THE KITCHEN WINDERMERE STORE.

he has been able to do in philosophy, and in which he formulates and explains the fundamental law governing the associated mental exercises. Finally, they have a new and revised edition for 1889 of Thomas A. Janvier's "Mexican Guide."

— A. C. Armstrong & Son have just published three important works on the Asiatic continent,—*"Through the Heart of Asia over the Pamir to India,"* by Gabriel Bonvalot, which has been translated



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JIM AND THE SORREL NAG.

from the French by C. B. Pitman, and is published in two volumes, with 250 illustrations by Albert Pepin; "The Industries of Japan," by Professor J. J. Rein of the University of Bonn, which gives an account of the agriculture, mining, forestry, arts, and commerce, from travels and researches in Japan, undertaken at the cost of the Prussian Government; and a second edition of the same author's work on "Japan, Travels and Researches," which, by verdict of the London *Spectator*, will be "the standard authority in such mat-