

Paul also maintains, with many other scholars, that the power of original creation in language is by no means lost, but is as active to-day as ever; and he gives many examples of words of recent origin which he holds to be underived from any others. All original creations, both earlier and later, he believes to be imitative, so that on this point he is directly at issue with many other philologists. These are the fundamental causes of the development of language; but to these must be added analogy, which has a powerful influence by multiplying forms and usages that have arisen in some other way.

Having thus traced the outline of his subject, Professor Paul pursues it into all its ramifications through a series of chapters, which we have not space to analyze here, but which are sure to interest every student of philology. In these days, when there is so much superficial writing, it is pleasant to meet with a book at once so thoughtful and so scholarly as this by Professor Paul; and, though there are things in it that are sure to provoke criticism, it will be of great value to all students of the history of language.

*Seraphita.* By HONORÉ DE BALZAC. Tr. by Katharine P. Wormeley. Boston, Roberts. 12°. \$1.50.

THIS work is another of its author's studies in occultism. The leading character in the story, called sometimes Seraphita and sometimes Seraphitus, is intended as an example of the "twin soul" which we are told every one must have in order to attain to supreme felicity. Hence she is represented as acting in some cases like a woman, and in others as a man, though the reader may think that she doesn't act much like either. To make the bisexual quality still more prominent, this "strange being" is represented in her feminine character as inspiring love in a young man, and in his masculine character as awakening the same sentiment in a young woman. She talks grandiloquent nonsense about heaven, hell, prayer, and other themes of that sort, and at last is "translated" to the spiritual world; and so the story comes to an end. As for the story itself, it has very few incidents, and no interest at all except what attaches to its occult "philosophy," if any one can take an interest in that. For our part, we find it repulsive, like every thing else of the same sort; being neither philosophy nor religion, but a mere mass of fiction put forward as truth. Besides the principal story, the book contains two shorter ones of a similar character, which call for no special remark. There is also a long and wordy introduction by G. F. Parsons, which neither adds to nor elucidates the text, and has, so far as we can see, no reason to be.

*La Société Française au Dix-septième Siècle.* Ed., with notes, by Thomas F. Crane. London and New York, Putnam. 24°. \$1.50.

THIS book, which is intended primarily for students of French, consists of a large number of extracts giving an account of the new social life that arose in France in the early part of the seventeenth century. Every one knows that society and conversation have long been more important elements in French life than in that of other nations, and have had greater influence on French literature than

on any other. Students of literature and of social life are therefore alike interested in tracing the origin and growth of that society for which France has long been noted, and Professor Crane here offers them help in so doing. He has restricted himself to a portion only of seventeenth-century society, neglecting that of the court entirely, while even some elements of literary society are passed over. The extracts given treat successively of the Hôtel de Rambouillet and the persons who frequented it, of Mademoiselle de Scudéry and her rather pedantic companions, of the affected set who were nicknamed the *Précieuses*, and of the rules of politeness that prevailed in that age. As far as they go, they give a pretty clear view of the society of which they treat, of its follies and foibles, as well as its excellences; and they also show to some extent the growth of literature and the development of literary style. Some passages are almost repulsive from the self-admiration and mutual admiration they exhibit; but these were necessary to give a faithful picture of the times. Professor Crane's introduction gives useful information respecting the leading persons and topics dealt with, and other points of a more special character are treated in the notes. The book is convenient in form, and well printed.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE July *Atlantic* opens with an article by Miss Preston, giving an account of the last days of Cicero, one of a series which she has been contributing to the *Atlantic*. Professor N. S. Shaler, who is a person to speak with authority, writes about "The Problem of Discipline in Higher Education," which will be read by student and teacher with equal interest. Mr. H. L. Nelson has an article on the "Speaker's Power," not a consideration of the power of oratory, but the power of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. W. H. Downes has an interesting paper on the "Old Masters" which may be seen in New York, and it is surprising to find how large a representation can be seen there. Another article is "Books that have Hindered Me," by Agnes Repplier. So much has been written about books that have helped various people, that Miss Repplier has decided to write about the books that did not help her. Among these she mentions "Sandford and Merton," Milton's "Areopagitica," and the "Heir of Redclyffe." The number closes with a knowing article on "Trotting Races," by H. C. Merwin.

— A. D. F. Randolph & Co. will publish at once the Duke of Argyll's work entitled "What is Truth?"

— J. S. Ogilvie has just ready, in his Fireside Series, "The History of the Great Flood at Johnstown, Penn."

— D. Appleton & Co. will publish immediately "Days Out of Doors," by Charles C. Abbott, author of "A Naturalist's Rambles;" "The History of a Slave," a startling picture of slavery in the Barbary States, by H. H. Johnston; and an interesting work on "Stellar Evolution and its Relations to Geological Time," by James Croll.

## THE FORUM FOR JULY.

In the July number of The Forum, Prof. Geo. J. Romanes answers, in behalf of the Darwinians, the criticisms made of the Darwinian doctrine, by Prof. Mivart. It is an important summary of the present position of the best evolutionist thought.

Prof. W. J. McGee, of the U. S. Geological Survey, explains the supply of the different kinds of fuel, with especial reference to deposits in the United States. Other articles are:

The Scholar in American Life. Bishop Henry C. Potter. A Market for Books. Edward Everett Hale. Republican Party Prospects. Senator Justin S. Morrill. The Ethics of Journalism. W. S. Lilly. The Attitude of the French Canadians. Honoré Beaugrand. Late Theories Concerning Fever. Dr. Austin Flint. Organizations of the Discontented. Richard J. Hinton. Domestic Service. Jennie Cunningham Croly. The Better Side of Anglo-mania. Rev. H. Price Collier.

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Miss May Kendall, the young English poetess whose semi-humorous, semi-pathetic fantasies, originally contributed to *Longmans' Magazine* and *Punch*, were recently gathered into a volume called "Dreams to Sell," has now written her first novel, "Such is Life." It will be published shortly by Longmans, Green, & Co., both in London and New York.

— Messrs. Macmillan & Co. are publishing a series of "English Classics," consisting of selections from the leading writers in prose and verse, and supplied with numerous and quite elaborate notes. They are edited by various teachers in the colleges of India, and are more particularly intended for Indian students. We some time ago noticed one of the volumes of the series, — the two opening books of "Paradise Lost;" and we have now received another, — "Essays written in the Intervals of Business," by Arthur Helps, edited by Professors F. J. Rowe and W. T. Webb of Calcutta. The essays are of the easy and somewhat commonplace kind which their author was accustomed to write; but they contain many apt remarks, and to certain minds will doubtless be useful. They treat of every-day matters, such as "Practical Wisdom," "Self-Discipline," "Advice," "The Education of a Man of Business," etc., and are written in a smooth and pleasant style. The editors' notes are very full, consisting of analyses and explanations, and supplying all the information that any reader of the essays can possibly require.

— J. B. Lippincott Company announce the early publication of a midsummer novel called "Three Days," by Samuel Williams Cooper. The book will be beautifully gotten up, and fully illustrated by Hal Hurst and C. C. Cooper, jun., the well-known artists.

— Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. have just ready, in the series of American Statesmen, "George Washington," by Henry Cabot, in two volumes. Mr. Cabot has made a thorough study of the civil career and influence of Washington, and his work cannot fail to shed much light on the interior discussions and vexed questions which filled the years preceding, during, and following the Revolution. They have also just ready Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward," translated into German by Rabbi Solomon Schindler; the

eighth part of the third series of W. H. Edwards's handsome work on "The Butterflies of North America;" and two more volumes in their Library Edition of Thackeray's works, — "Memoirs of Yellowplush" and "Burlesques, etc."

— Cassell & Co. will publish next month, from their London house, "The Year-Book of Commerce." This work, prepared especially for business-men, will form an annual statistical volume of reference, showing the movement of the foreign trade and general economic position of the leading countries of the world. It has been compiled under the authority of the London Chamber of Commerce, and is edited by Mr. Kenric B. Murray. Among the contributors will be Lord Brassey, Dr. R. Giffen, H. C. Burdett (secretary to the Stock Exchange), Mr. J. S. Jeans (secretary to the Iron Trade Association), Major Craigie (secretary to the Central Chamber of Agriculture), Mr. George Martineau, Mr. John Corbett, Mr. E. D. Milliet (of Berne, Switzerland), Mr. Boverton Redwood, Signor Luigi Bodeo (Rome); Dr. Becher (Berlin), M. E. Fournier de Flaux (Paris), etc.

— Messrs. Ginn & Co. announce, in the College Series of Greek Authors, Plato's "Protagoras," the commentary of Sauppe, translated, with additions, by Principal Towle of Norfolk, Conn. The "Protagoras" is perhaps the liveliest of the dialogues of Plato. In few dialogues is the dramatic form so skilfully maintained without being overborne by the philosophical development. By the changing scenes, the variety in the treatment of the theme, and the repeated participation of the bystanders, the representation of a scene from real life is vivaciously sustained. Noticeable, too, is the number of vividly elaborated characters: Socrates ever genial, ready for a contest, and toying with his opponents; Protagoras, disdainful toward the other sophists, condescending toward Socrates; Prodicus, surcharged with synonymic wisdom; Hippias, pretentious and imposing; the impetuous Alcibiades; and the tranquil Critias. Herr Geheim-Rath Sauppe is the Nestor of German philologists, and his introduction and commentary have been accepted as models by scholars. In this edition, those additions have been made which seemed desirable for the use of American classes.

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