— The London correspondent of *The New York Times* says, "The *New Review* has been such a remarkable success that it will henceforth contain ten additional pages. Its freshness, ability, and scope have made even the *Fortnightly* and the *Contemporary* seem dull by comparison, and this month in the table of contents it easily leads all its older and costlier rivals. A little two-page paper by Cardinal Manning on the strike is one of the wisest and most valuable deliverances on the subject I have ever seen, and John Burns's longer article is extremely forcible."

— In the *New England Magazine* for October many of the articles are devoted to subjects relating to education. Mr. Albert P. Marble, the retiring president of the National Educational Association, contributes an article on the history and prospects of the association; W. A. Mowry, the editor of *Education*, writes on Dr. Harris and the Bureau of Education; there is a brief article on history, by A. E. Winship, the editor of the *New England Journal of Education;* and there is a long and fully illustrated article on the educational institutions of Nashville. Nashville receives further notice in a general article on the history and new life of the city, by Hon. A. S. Colyar. This article also is illustrated, and is timely, as the recent meeting of the National Educational Association in this "Athens of the South" has drawn to it the attention of thousands of the teachers of the country. It is the first of a series of articles, in which the *New England Magazine* proposes to present the enterprising cities of the New South to Northern readers. Dr. Holmes, whose eightieth birthday has just been celebrated, receives attention in this number of the magazine. The frontispiece is a portrait of Dr. Holmes, from a recent photograph. There is an illustrated article, "Dr. Holmes at Fourscore," by George Willis Cooke; an article on "Dr. Holmes's Pilgrim Poems;" and interesting facts about the poet among the editorial notes. Professor Hosmer's story, "The Haunted Bell," is continued, and there are some short stories, one by Mrs. Celia P. Woolley, the author of "Love and Theology." Mr. Mead's study of the question, "Did John Hampden come to New England?" is finished, the whole evidence on this puzzling point being laid on the table. Another historical article is by Professor Charles H. Levermore, "Pilgrim and Knickerbocker in the Connecticut Valley." Mr. Hale has a gossipy paper entitled "Tarry at Home Travel," not easy to describe, but delightful to read. There is a brief article on John Boyle O'Reilly; and a long and thorough one by William Clarke of London on Parnell, which will attract much attention. It is accompanied by a portrait of Parnell, from a recent photograph. The articles on O'Reilly and Dr. Harris also have portraits.

— Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. have published a small volume by Mary E. Burt, an Illinois teacher, entitled "Literary Landmarks." The authoress is impressed with the importance of giving children a taste for better reading than much that they now indulge in, and more knowledge of the literary history of the world. She lays the most stress on works of imagination, though she does not neglect scientific and historical books, and others that convey information. She gives some account of her experience in teaching the history of literature by means of specimen works, — a study which she has found more interesting to school-children than is commonly supposed. The book contains some charts to illustrate the literary history of the world, one of which is quite elaborate, and would, we should think, be useful to other teachers. Miss Burt is perhaps a little too positive in expressing her views, and the list of books that she recommends for young people is too full for ordinary use; but we welcome her attempt and all attempts to raise the standard of juvenile reading.

— "Evolution of Morals," by Lewis G. Janes, and "Proofs of Evolution," by Nelson C. Parshall, are the contents of Nos. 11 and 12 of the *Modern Science Essayist*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Lightning-Strokes.

THE attempt of *Science* to obtain information regarding lightning-strokes and their damage is very praiseworthy, and it is to be hoped that it will result in a clearer understanding of the danger from these strokes to unprotected houses. I have heard intelligent men say that a lightning-rod attracted the lightning, and was more dangerous than none. This is unquestionably an entirely erroneous supposition, in case the lightning-rod has a good ground, for its whole duty is to cause electricity of increased tension to pass off silently and insensibly, rather than to gain a sufficient potential to give a disruptive discharge. The following is a brief account of a few strokes that have come to my attention, in which damage resulted, in the past four years.

On Aug. 23, 1885, a church with a high steeple, and protected by an iron lightning-rod, was struck in a severe storm. The stroke stopped the tower clock, but without serious injury. The electricity came down the rod to within fifteen feet of the ground, when it dashed across twenty feet of air space, to a faucet connected with the city water-pipes, and disappeared without further injury. It slightly dazed a man who was within a few feet of the line from the rod to the faucet. A singular point is, that this same church was struck in precisely the same way several years before; and on that occasion, as the stroke entered the water-pipe, it broke the marble front of the sink, and threw it on the floor. It is very plain that the whole difficulty in this case was an insufficient ground. After the last catastrophe the rod was changed to copper, but it is plain that the only method of avoiding danger is by improving the ground.

In this same storm, lightning struck a house about three-quarters of a mile from the church. This house had no rod. The main part had a hip roof, and was shingled; while a lower southern extension had a tin roof, from the south-west corner of which a tin eaves-spout ran down to about ten inches above the earth. The lightning struck the south-west corner of the extension, and divided, a part going down to the end of the spout, and then into the house, where it knocked off the plastering. The other part crossed to the north-east corner, passed down between the weather-boarding and plastering, and finally dug a furrow in the ground, and disappeared in a pool of water about fifteen feet from the house. The latter part of the stroke drove off, as by an explosion, the plastering on the inside and the weather-boarding on the outside. There was no trace of scorching on the boards. A woman and her two sons in the house were dazed and partly stunned.

A year or two later a modern house was struck on one of the principal avenues of the city. It had no lightning-rod; but, from a tower having a slate roof, a gilded ornament projected to about three feet. The whole house excepting this tower was roofed with tin. The stroke passed down the inside of the tower, knocking off the plastering, stunning one of the inmates, and doing other slight damage. This house has had the same ornament erected, and no rod put in place to protect from a similar stroke.

The last stroke that has been called to my attention occurred this summer. A gilded wooden cross about four feet in height, on the tower of a beautiful stone church which had no protection from lightning, was struck. Various ornaments on the tower were shattered, and the tower itself was damaged. The whole damage was two hundred or three hundred dollars. The gilded cross has again been erected without a lightning-rod to invite another visitation by Providence.

It seems to me the architects of modern buildings are largely responsible for this state of affairs. It is probable that in a large city with numerous tin roofs the danger from lightning on ordinary roofs is very slight; but certainly in isolated spots, and all projecting metallic or gilded points, there is a constant hazard from lightning unless protected by a rod well grounded.

H. A. HAZEN.

Washington, D.C., Oct. 7.

A Queer Maple-Tree.

A HARD-MAPLE tree in the yard of S. G. Scott at Plainwell, Mich., is an object of great curiosity. It has been shedding its foliage through September, but new leaves are again appearing, and after the fall frosts the tree again drops its leaves. This it has done regularly for several seasons. It differs only in respect of shedding its foliage twice a year, from other maples standing within a few feet of it.

M. G. MANTING.

Holland, Mich., Oct. 4.