

gave the substance of two papers, — one on "The Little Brown Crane in Rhode Island," and the other on "The Capture of the Canada Jay near Cambridge, Mass."

At the closing session of the congress on Friday, President J. A. Allen presented a paper on the classification of the Maximilian types of South American birds now in the American Museum. He also presented a paper on "Seasonal and Individual Variation in Certain Flycatchers of the Genus *Elænea*." Mr. Frank M. Chapman read a paper on "The Forms of the Maryland Yellow-Throat." President Allen read a paper on classification, in which the difficulties of the work were made evident.

The next congress will be held in Washington the third Tuesday in November, 1890.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

The Continuous Creation. By MYRON ADAMS. New York, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 12°. \$1.50.

THIS work is one of those attempts, now so numerous, to reconcile Christianity and science. The author is a clergyman, and the views set forth in this volume are such as he has long taught to his congregation. He accepts the evolutionary philosophy quite as unreservedly as any scientist could do, and endeavors to show that it is in no way hostile to any essential truth of religion. There is nothing in his views or arguments that is specially new; but they are presented in a style that is somewhat above the ordinary, being not only clear and refined, but also of a true literary flavor. Mr. Adams holds the view, which other Christian thinkers have expressed, that evolution is "the mode of God in doing things, in causing things to come to pass." Creation is conceived as a continuous and never-ending process, and evolution as the universal law of becoming." This idea of continuous creation is nothing new, but has been held by many philosophers of the past, including the Alexandrian Christians. But the prevalent doctrine of the Church has regarded creation as a work done once for all by an omnipotent *fiat*; and hence, when the evolution theory appeared, it was found to be out of harmony with the orthodox view. Of course, Mr. Adams has no difficulty in showing that the new theory is in no way inconsistent with a philosophical theism. It is curious, however, that nearly all the criticisms of Christianity with which the world is now rife should be attributed to the evolutionary school, for very few of them are original with that school. Most of the changes now going on in the traditional religion are due to other influences, and would have taken place just the same if evolution had never been thought of. How far those changes have already gone, Mr. Adams's book plainly shows; for his Christianity is so different from that of former times that it is hardly recognizable under the same name. But he shows an excellent spirit and a true religious earnestness, and his work will be interesting to those who are interested in its subject.

The Public Regulation of Railways. By W. D. DABNEY. New York, Putnam. 12°. \$1.25.

THIS is one of the most sensible books on the railway question that we have seen, though it cannot be said to offer much that is original. Most writers who discuss the railway question are animated either by hostility to the railway companies or by partiality for them; and it is pleasant to read a work that discusses the subject in a judicial spirit. Mr. Dabney's book consists of two parts: the first dealing with the legal aspects of the subject; the second, with the economical. He is opposed to any scheme for the purchase and operation of the railways by the government, and gives the usual reasons for this view. But, on the other hand, he holds that the partial monopoly that necessarily attaches to the railway business, and the vast power over industrial interests which the companies wield, make it necessary that they should be carefully supervised by public authority. He goes into the details of many judicial decisions and questions of law affecting the railways, and then takes up such questions as those of pooling, discrimination, "the long and short haul," and many others; and his opinions, whether one agrees with them or not, are evidently the result of careful study. He condemns discrimination between persons in unqualified terms, but thinks that discrimination in favor of certain

places is sometimes not only justifiable, but inevitable. The work is worthy of perusal by all who wish to understand the subject and to see justice done to all parties.

Pawnee Hero Stories and Folk-Tales. By GEORGE B. GRINNELL. New York, Forest and Stream Publ. Co. 12°. \$2.

THE author of this work has lived for several years among the Pawnees, and, during his last visit to the tribe, gathered as many of their familiar stories as he could, and set them down in writing precisely as they were told to him. The hero stories are mostly warlike, and relate particularly to horse-stealing, which, as Mr. Grinnell reminds us, was simply a mode of warfare. It appears that the Pawnees are adepts in personating wolves by dressing themselves in skins or other appropriate disguises, and crawling on all-fours; and by this means they could approach close to an enemy's camp without being discovered. Many of these stories recount such exploits, and some are quite diverting. The folk-tales are far more fantastic, and are full of the marvellous; as, for instance, the story of the Dun Horse. This animal was very wise and a good conversationist; but after a while he died, and the men of the tribe cut him up into little pieces. Very soon, however, a strong wind blew upon the pieces, and they were put together again, and the horse restored to life.

Besides these native stories, Mr. Grinnell gives us a series of notes on the Pawnee people and their customs, which will be of use to students of such subjects. He attempts to trace the origin and migrations of the tribe, but reliable information on these points is very scanty. The religious sentiments of the Pawnees are said to be strong, and their religious exercises frequent and fervent. Some marvellous and inexplicable tales are told, and stated to be true, of the doings of their medicine-men. The Pawnees are now settled in the Indian Territory, and are rapidly dwindling in numbers. When the author first visited the tribe, "it numbered more than three thousand people: now there are only a little more than eight hundred of them." He thinks that some measures ought to be taken to preserve a record of their language, and suggests that the Smithsonian Institution should take the matter up.

Electricity in our Homes and Workshops. By SYDNEY F. WALKER. New York, Van Nostrand. 16°.

THE ground covered by this work is somewhat limited, but it is gone over thoroughly and conscientiously, leaving little to be desired even by the most exacting. The intention of the author when he began his task, as intimated in the preface, was to cover the whole ground occupied by electrical apparatus; but circumstances compelled him to limit his labors to what are known as auxiliaries to the practical business of life, — those in which only small currents are used. We hope, however, that the author, when he realizes the eagerness with which books on such subjects, written by competent men, are looked for by all interested in the popular side of electrical progress, will give us something in a similar vein on electric lighting, transmission of power, electrical measurements, and other topics.

Mr. Walker explains, in easily understood terms, the every-day working of many of the forms of electrical apparatus with which experience has made us more or less familiar; that is to say, he explains, in language devoid of unnecessary technicalities, the working of an electric circuit, the properties and application of the magnet, and the theory and operation of galvanic batteries. He also gives some chapters to electric bells and their fittings, to electric mining signals and their operation, and to telephonic apparatus. But the most interesting chapter in the book is that which the author calls a "glossary of terms," but which is really something more. It is by far the best popular explanation of electrical terms, considering its brevity, that we know of; and, now that the daily press is giving us a brief respite from the "overhead wire" sensation, we would commend this glossary to the newspaper reporters, so that they may be prepared to do full justice to the technicalities of electricity as soon as that subject comes uppermost again. The multifarious uses of the electrical current have become so necessary a part of our daily life, that those who wish to speak or write intelligently of it must pay attention to its terminology.

The book is well printed, neatly and substantially bound, and is illustrated by 127 engravings.