

The Works of Walter Bagehot. Ed. by FORREST MORGAN. Hartford, The Travelers Insurance Co. 5 vols. 8°. \$5.

THIS fine edition of Bagehot's works will be very welcome to students of theoretical and practical politics. The editor's original intention was to issue simply a reprint of such of the author's writings as had already appeared in England; but he soon found that the text was badly corrupted, owing mainly to Bagehot's slovenly style of writing, and to the fact that he often failed to correct his proofs. Proper names were found to be misspelled in many cases; grammatical blunders of the worst kind were numbered by scores; and, worst of all, the quotations, which are so frequent in the essays and elsewhere, were more often wrong than right. Many of these errors Mr. Morgan has corrected silently; but some of the quotations are so badly mangled that he has left them in the text as the author wrote them, and has given the correct form in a note. The works are prefaced by a memoir by Mr. R. H. Hutton, which was published in England soon after Bagehot's death. Then follow three volumes of essays, mostly biographical or literary; while the two concluding volumes contain the more elaborate works on "The English Constitution," "Physics and Politics," and others.

That Bagehot holds a high rank as a political thinker and writer is undeniable, for he was not only the author of the works here collected, but also a leader of thought on practical affairs by means of his editorials in the *Economist*; yet his writings are very unequal in merit. His political views were too oligarchical, and he even went so far as to applaud Louis Napoleon's *coup d'état*, and to hail the perpetrator of it as a savior of society. The work on "The English Constitution" is the best known, and in our opinion the ablest, though Mr. Morgan gives the preference to "Physics and Politics." The studies in economics are suggestive, and serve to correct and complete some theories of the earlier writers. This edition is a very handsome one; and, as it is sold at the extremely low price of five dollars, the publishers can only find their recompense in the reputation the work will bring them.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

JOHN WILEY & SONS have in press the first part of a Ruskin bibliography.

—An interesting table of contents is presented in *Belford's Magazine* for November. Besides a complete novel, "In God's Country," by D. Higbee, there are several shorter stories and poems by well-known writers, some timely editorials, and a few book-reviews. Felix Oswald writes interestingly on the "Curiosities of Longevity;" "The Labor Problem" is discussed by Alfred F. Jury; and, under the title "The Failure of Democracy," Clinton Furbush points out the way to prevent such a catastrophe.

—Dr. William Perry Northrup has written for the December *Scribner* some picturesque impressions of a summer in Brittany, describing particularly the pardon of Ste. Anne d'Auray, a unique religious festival. Ex-Minister Edward J. Phelps, in his article on the age of words, writes rather disparagingly of contemporary fiction. Edgar Mayhew Bacon will present a humorous view of Bahama negro character.

—In an article on "Building Associations," in the December *Lippincott's*, Thomas Gaffney describes the benefits that accrue to the members of these institutions, tells how to form and run such associations, and points out their influence for good upon the nation at large. In "Novelistic Habits and 'The Morgesons,'" Julian Hawthorne gives his theories as to how novels should be written. In the same number William Shepard tells about "The Evolution of Famous Sayings," and shows how many famous *bon mots* and epigrams antedate the existence of the men who are generally supposed to have originated them.

—Robert Bonner's Sons have ready "Great Senators of the United States Forty Years Ago (1848-49)," by Oliver Dyer, at that time a reporter in the Senate for the *National Intelligencer*, which was forty years ago a widely circulated newspaper. The author came into close contact with the distinguished statesmen of his day, and gives personal recollections of Calhoun, Benton, Clay, Webster, Gen. Houston, and Jefferson Davis, and many less-known men.

—Gebbie & Co. have just issued a publication on a subject that is at present attracting attention, electricity. It is entitled "Babylon Electrified," and is written by A. Bleunard, a French scientist, and not only comprises an account of travels from London to Babylon, but demonstrates by imagination the present possibilities of electricity. It is illustrated by numerous engravings by Montader.

—Messrs. Putnam have issued a reprint of "Money," by James Platt, — a book that has had a large sale in England, though why it should have it is not easy to see. It is, indeed, a sensible and conscientious work; but it contains nothing new or striking, and the style is rambling and somewhat garrulous. It may be this very style, however, that makes the work popular. Mr. Platt's views are sound and practical, being in fact the views held by most English economists. He justly holds that a correct knowledge of money and credit is essential to the prosperity of a nation, and that such knowledge is not to be had without some study. He gives an account of the nature and uses of money and also of its history, and then follows chapters on banking, interest, panics, and other matters connected with the general theme. He shows a thorough knowledge of the subject, both in its theoretical and in its practical aspects, and the reader who is not familiar with the economics of money will obtain a good deal of information from its pages.

—In *The Chautauquan* for December, Professor James A. Harrison of Washington and Lee University has the first of a series of papers on the archæology of Italy; "The Humors of Ignorance" is an article by W. S. Walsh, in which many instances are cited to show how ignorant an intelligent person may be on subjects which everybody expects him to know; W. T. Hornaday tells of the destruction of our wild animals; Dr. J. M. Buckley continues his discussion of "Traits of Human Nature;" an answer to the question "How can I become a distinct speaker?" is given by Professor R. L. Cumnock of North-western University; Ernest Lambert tells about the Island of Jersey, its history, its relics and antiquities, and the peculiarities of its people; the issue contains a study of "Modern English Politics and Society," by J. Ranken Towse; there is an article by Professor R. F. Weidner, D.D., of Augustana Theological Seminary, on "Recent Objections to the Bible Answered;" some statistics are given in an article on "Working-Girls;" "An Indian's Memory, How Long is it?" is discussed by Egerton R. Young; and "Convict Labor in Alabama" is treated by Ernest Ingersoll.

—The Hon. Edward S. Phelps, lately minister to England, has prepared for the December *Forum* an article on divorce. A contribution to the literature of the controversy about Romanism will be made by Bishop McQuaid of Rochester, N.Y. He undertakes to show that the common-school system is paternalistic and socialistic in its tendencies, and that a gross wrong is done to Catholic parents by taxing them to maintain the public schools. The organization of farmers into granges, alliances, wheels, and combinations by other names, has for two years been going on at a much more rapid rate than ever before. The limit of the old grange movement has long ago been passed. These organizations now contain a membership of a million, and a movement is on foot to consolidate the granges, the alliances, and all the other combinations. An explanation of this movement, as well as of the aims and methods of each organization (all of which are secret), will be published in this number by W. A. Peffer of Kansas. An old plan to solve the race question in the South, namely, by promoting emigration to the West Indies, to Mexico, or to Africa, is revived simultaneously by persons who approach the problems from many points of view. The Mexican Government is reported to have the subject under consideration. A colored man from the South is lecturing in some of the Northern cities in favor of this scheme, and advocates of it are presenting it in books and periodical literature. Professor Henry A. Scamp of Emory College, Georgia, who looks at the subject from the Southern point of view and with sympathy for the colored race, has prepared an article for *The Forum*, in which he undertakes to show that assisted emigration is the only solution of the negro problem, and affords the only means of escape from dangers that constantly become more menacing.