

BOOK-REVIEWS.

Electricity in Modern Life. By G. W. TUNZELMANN. New York, Scribner & Welford. 12°. \$1.25.

THIS is the second volume of the Contemporary Science Series, a series of inexpensive and handy illustrated books intended to bring within the reach of the general public the "best that is known and thought in all departments of modern scientific research." The scope of the series is broad, but the character of the few volumes issued (some of which have been already noticed in these columns), and the high standing of the writers engaged on forthcoming works, are a guaranty that the subjects are and will be not only well selected, but ably handled.

Owing to the prominent place now occupied by electrical science, it will be readily understood that Professor Tunzelmann's volume is one of the most important in the series. For this reason much will be expected of it; more, perhaps, than should be looked for in a work of its modest size. The field is so large, the ramifications of the subject are so many, and the connections with kindred subjects are so close and so complicated, that the author's work was doubly difficult; but it must be admitted that he has succeeded in giving us a volume fulfilling every requirement of the prospectus quoted above. The more important of the many useful functions of electricity in our daily life, the scientific principles underlying its practical applications, and the history of their development, are briefly but clearly sketched.

Being intended primarily for the use of readers without previous knowledge of the subject, it begins with the familiar but necessary sealing-wax and glass-rod phenomenon, and leads the reader step by step to the modern commercial applications of electricity, as exemplified in the telegraph, telephone, lighting, and the transmission of power. None of the many modern uses to which electrical energy has been adapted appears to have been neglected, though of course the space devoted to many of them is brief. There are errors in the book, more or less important, ac-

cording to the point from which they are viewed. They will attract the attention of the electrician and the engineer, and have doubtless been pointed out to the author ere this, but they will scarcely detract from the value of the volume for those for whom it is intended.

Evolution and Disease. By J. BLAND SUTTON. New York, Scribner & Welford. 12°. \$1.25.

To demonstrate that there is a natural history of disease as well as of plants and animals was the object the author had in mind in writing this book. The science of disease, or pathology, is generally regarded as of interest only to medical men; yet it is but a department of biology, and should therefore be studied by all who desire to make themselves masters of this science. The basis of the author's argument is, that, as there has been a gradual evolution of complex from simple organisms, it necessarily follows that the principles of evolution ought to apply to diseased conditions if they hold good for the normal or healthy states of organisms: in plain words, there has been an evolution of disease *pari passu* with evolution of animal forms. The author recognizes the difficulty of the task which he has set himself to perform. He thinks that a more extended study will serve to show that many of his conclusions are fallacious, and he candidly invites corrections from all who have opportunities of practically testing his theories. He has certainly succeeded in presenting his subject in a most attractive form, and has apparently succeeded in sustaining the points which he has made. We shall, however, before accepting his claims as proven, wait until his theories have been more fully tested.

A Course of Lectures on the Growth and Means of Training the Mental Faculty. By FRANCIS WARNER. Cambridge, Eng., University Pr. 16°. 90 cents.

THE title of this book is a misnomer, there being very little in it about mental faculty. Dr. Warner's views of human na-

Publications received at Editor's Office,
May 19-24.

- CENTURY DICTIONARY, The. Vol. III. G to L. New York, The Century Co. 1134 p. f°. 80 cents.
- CHAMBERS'S ENCYCLOPEDIA. New ed. Vol. V. Friday to Humanitarians. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 823 p. 8°. 83 cents.
- HACKEL, E. The True Grasses. Tr. by F. Lamson-Scribner and Effie A. Southworth. New York, Holt. 228 p. 8°. \$1.50.
- ILLINOIS, Sixteenth Report of the State Entomologist on the Noxious and Beneficial Insects of the State of. Fifth Report of S. A. Forbes, for the Years 1887 and 1888. Springfield, State. 226 p. 8°.
- MONTEFIORE, A. Henry M. Stanley, the African Explorer. 4th ed. New York and Chicago, Fleming H. Revell. 192 p. 12°. 75 cents.
- MOUCHEZ, E. Rapport Annuel sur l'Etat de l'Observatoire de Paris, pour l'Année 1889. Paris, Gauthier-Villars. 27 p. 4°.
- RIO DE JANEIRO, Annales de l'Observatoire Impérial de. Publiées par L. Cruls. Tome IV. Parts I, II. Rio de Janeiro, H. Lombaerts & C. 529 p. f°.
- Annuário Publicado pelo Imperial Observatorio do, para o Anno de 1888. Rio de Janeiro, H. Lombaerts & C. 343 p. 12°.
- Same, 1889. Rio de Janeiro, H. Lombaerts & C. 322 p. 12°.
- Annuário Publicado pelo Observatorio Astronomico do, para o Anno de 1890. Rio de Janeiro, H. Lombaerts & C. 386 p. 12°.

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