

show a connection between all the subjects, illustrating the principle of evolution. The volume proposed to follow in this series will contain various papers on astronomy and physics, including "The Sun and Solar Energy;" "The Moon;" "Weighing the Sun and Moon;" "Size and Mass of the Earth;" "Planet Worlds and Suns;" "Fixed and Variable Stars;" "Star Clusters, Nebulae, and Comets;" "Contents of Space;" "Formation of the Heavenly Bodies;" "Tides;" "Light;" "The Spectroscope;" etc.

—Two of the recent publications of the Johns Hopkins University may interest some of our readers. One is on "The Study of History in Germany and France," by Paul Frédéricq of the University of Ghent, translated by Henrietta Leonard, and gives a somewhat minute account of the methods now pursued in teaching history in the universities of Germany and in the various higher schools in Paris. The historical courses in the German Universities are of two kinds, theoretical and practical, of which the former are like those in our own colleges, while the latter are intended to teach the student how to investigate and criticise the original authorities. It is these practical courses, as pursued in the historical seminaries, that M. Frédéricq most esteems; and he devotes many pages to an account of the way they are carried on, the students doing most of the work, and the teacher making suggestions and criticisms. Some foreign observers have thought that this mode of investigating history was degenerating into a mere criticism of texts and study of trifles; but M. Frédéricq thinks otherwise, though he admits that it might do so. The French historical courses in general he esteems less highly, but speaks with enthusiasm of those at the Practical School for Advanced Study (L'École Pratique des hautes études), founded in Paris a few years since, and which resemble to some extent those of the German universities. On the whole, M. Frédéricq's monograph, though too minute for most readers, is well prepared, and will doubtless be suggestive to American educators. The other pamphlet to which we alluded is "Notes on the Progress of the Colored People of Maryland since the War," by J. R. Brackett. This author had previously published an account of the negroes and of slavery in Maryland before the war, to which the present

work is therefore a supplement. He speaks first of the political action of the negroes, which, in his opinion, has not helped them much, and then goes on to state what they have done in accumulating property and otherwise improving their condition. He reports, that, according to the best information obtainable, not more than two thousand of the Maryland negroes own any property, though the number of negroes in the State is over two hundred thousand. Considerable difficulty has been experienced by them in gaining admittance to the professions of law, medicine, and teaching; but they have finally succeeded in all these cases. Some prejudice and caste feeling still prevails; but, on the whole, the status of the negro in Maryland seems to be improving as fast as could reasonably have been expected.

—The Shakespeare Society of New York announces that it will immediately resume its publications (temporarily discontinued, pending the establishment of "The Bankside Shakespeare") with a second series, to consist of unexpurgated reprints of the Old English Miracle Plays, Mysteries, and Moralities, as illustrating the growth of the drama up to Shakespeare, besides the least known and edited English plays contemporary with Shakespeare's own work. This second series will discard the black and gold cover and 16mo. page heretofore used, and hereafter all of the society's publications will be issued in "Bankside" style, in the best work of the Riverside Press; laid paper, boards, parchment backs, 8vo.; uniform with "The Bankside Shakespeare." Two hundred and fifty copies of this series only will be printed, and the type will then be distributed, not to be reset under any circumstances. These impressions will be sold at \$2.50 per volume, payable on delivery, plus postage. No. 1 of this second series will be "Lacke Drvms Entertainment, Or The Comedie of Pasquil and Katherine. as it hath beene sundry times plaid by the Children of Powles. Newly corrected, London, printed by W. Stansby, for Philip Knight, and are to be sold at his shop in Chancery-Lane over against the Roles. 1616. (With notes, and Introduction touching the origin, growth and decadence of the Children's Companies.)" Address L. L. Lawrence, clerk Publication Committee, N. Y. S. S., 21 Park Row, New York City.

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