

BOOK-REVIEWS.

Civilization: An Historical Review of its Elements. By CHARLES MORRIS. 2 vols. Chicago, S. C. Griggs & Co. 12°. \$4.

THIS work, as the author states, is not "a history of civilization in the ordinarily accepted sense of the term, but is offered rather as an outline view of its elements, with some attempt to set forth the philosophy of human progress." It opens with a general sketch of the earliest civilized nations, and then treats successively of the development of political institutions, religion and morals, industry, and the other leading elements in the progress of humanity. The author makes no pretence of original investigation into the facts, and seldom descends to details; and he presupposes in the reader a general knowledge of the world's history. He devotes but a small space to the periods before the dawn of historical literature, holding that our information about prehistoric ages is far too scanty to be of much use, and that "the conditions displayed by existing savages are no just example of primitive institutions." Thus the greater part of the book relates to the civilization that began in Egypt and Babylonia, and has since spread over Europe and America; but the partial development of civilization in China and India and in ancient Mexico and Peru is not neglected.

The merit of the work is not of the highest order, yet there is much in it that is good. Its principal defect is in the style, which is diffuse and almost garrulous, the author being apparently troubled with too great a development of the linguistic faculty. The division and arrangement of topics are also such as to cause a good deal of repetition; so that the exposition fills a larger space than is necessary. As for Mr. Morris's philosophy, we do not find in it any thing specially new or striking; but he has evidently studied the works of the best philosophic historians, and has thoroughly mastered all the prevailing theories, yet without making a hobby of any of them. He of course regards the history of

civilization as a process of development; yet he makes but little reference to the special doctrines of the evolution school, and little use of their hackneyed phrases. The main defect in Mr. Morris's historical philosophy is his insufficient appreciation of the Greek civilization and of its rank among the various forms of human culture. He dwells on its defects rather than on its excellences; and the reader who got his information wholly from this book would be likely to think that Greece was no more important in the development of civilization than ancient India or modern Germany. Yet there is much in Mr. Morris's exposition that is valuable; and most of his views, we think, are sound, and likely to stand the test of time. On the whole, his work will take a respectable rank among American books, though we cannot say that it is up to the true standard of philosophic history.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE "Dictionary of Political Economy," which Mr. R. H. Inglis Palgrave, F.R.S., is editing, and which is to be published by Macmillan & Co., is now assuming a definite shape, and the first part is to be out in January. Among the contributors are Professor Ashley of Toronto, Professor Bastable of Dublin, Dr. Bauer of Vienna, Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P., the Rev. A. Caldecott, Mr. Crump of the Record Office, M. A. Curtois *filis*, the Rev. Dr. W. Cunningham, Major Craigie of the Board of Agriculture, Professor Dunbar of Harvard, Professor Dewey of Boston, Professor F. Y. Edgeworth, Mr. Elliott, M. A. de Foville, Professor Foxwell, Dr. Robert Giffen, Mr. C. A. Harris, Dr. J. K. Ingram, Mr. J. N. Keynes, the Rev. T. J. Lawrence, Professor E. de Leveleye, Mr. R. Lodge, Professor F. W. Maitland, Professor J. E. C. Munro, Professor J. S. Nicholson, Mr. R. E. Prothero, the Rev. L. R. Phelps, Signor Pantaleoni, Mr. D. G. Ritchie, Professor Roberts-Austen, F.R.S., Professor H. Sidgwick, Professor Smith of Columbia, Professor Taussig of Harvard, and the Rev.

Publications received at Editor's Office, Nov. 10-22.

- BINET, A. On Double Consciousness. Chicago, Open Court Publ. Co. 93 p. 12°. 50 cents.
 BLANFORD, H. F. An Elementary Geography of India, Burma, and Ceylon. London and New York, Macmillan. 191 p. 16°. 70 cents.
 BURGESS, W. Modern Fish Culture. Birmingham, Eng., Martin Billing, Son, & Co., Pr. 118 p. 12°. 25 cents.
 CHURCH, W. C. The Life of John Ericsson. Vols. I. and II. New York, Scribner. 660 p. 8°. \$6.
 ENGLISH Literature, A Chart of, with References. Ed. by G. E. Maclean, Ph.D. Boston, Ginn. 13 p. 8°. \$1.
 FAR and Near. Vol. I. No. 1. November, 1890. m. New York. The Critic Co. 16 p. 4°. \$1 per year.
 HOYT, D. L. Handbook of Historic Schools of Painting. Boston, Ginn. 210 p. 12°. \$1.
 LÖCKYER, J. N. The Meteoritic Hypothesis. London and New York, Macmillan. 560 p. 8°. \$5.25.
 MORRIS, C. Civilization, an Historical Review of its Elements. Vols. I. and II. Chicago, Griggs. 1,000 p. 12°. \$4.
 MYERS, P. V. N. Ancient History for Colleges and High Schools. Part II. A History of Rome. Boston, Ginn. 123 p. 12°. \$1.10.
 PHYSICIAN'S Visiting List for 1891, The. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 16°.

READY IN JANUARY.

THE LABRADOR COAST.

A Journal of two Summer Cruises to that region; with notes on its early discovery, on the Eskimo, on its physical geography, geology and natural history, together with a bibliography of charts, works and articles relating to the civil and natural history of the Labrador Peninsula.

By ALPHEUS SPRING PACKARD, M.D., Ph.D.
8°, about 400 pp., \$3.50.

N. D. C. HODGES, 47 Lafayette Place, N. Y.

JUST PUBLISHED.
RACES AND PEOPLES.

By DANIEL G. BRINTON, M.D.

"We strongly recommend Dr. Brinton's 'Races and Peoples' to both beginners and scholars. We are not aware of any other recent work on the science of which it treats in the English language."

—*Asiatic Quarterly*.

"His book is an excellent one, and we can heartily recommend it as an introductory manual of ethnology."—*The Morist*.

"A useful and really interesting work, which deserves to be widely read and studied both in Europe and America."—*Brighton (Eng.) Herald*.

"This volume is most stimulating. It is written with great clearness, so that anybody can understand, and while in some ways, perforce, superficial, grasps very well the complete field of humanity."—*The New York Times*.

"Dr. Brinton invests his scientific illustrations and measurements with an indescribable charm of narration, so that 'Races and Peoples,' avowedly a record of discovered facts, is in reality a strong stimulant to the imagination."—*Philadelphia Public Ledger*.

Price, postpaid, \$1.75.

N. D. C. HODGES, 47 Lafayette Pl., New York,

A SYSTEM OF
EASY LETTERING.

By J. H. CROMWELL, Ph.B.

Twenty six different forms of Alphabets. The space to be lettered is divided into squares, and with these as a guide the different letters are drawn and inked. Price, 50 cents, postpaid.

E. & F. N. SPON, 12 Cortlandt Street, New York.

HEAVEN AND HELL.

416 pages, paper cover.

DIVINE LOVE AND WISDOM.

383 pages, paper cover, by EMANUEL SWEDENBORG. Mailed prepaid for 14 cts. each (or both for 25 cts.) by the American Swedenborg P. and P. Society, 20 Cooper Union, New York.

BOOKS: How to get them. If there is any book or pamphlet that you want, write to the Science Book Agency, 47 Lafayette Place, New York.

Old and Rare Books.

BACK NUMBERS and complete sets of leading Magazines. Rates low. AM. MAG. EXCHANGE. Schoharie N Y

TWO NOTABLE BOOKS.

LIFE OF JOHN ERICSSON.

By Colonel WILLIAM C. CHURCH. With 50 Illustrations. 2 vols. 8vo. \$6.00.

"One of the most important of recent additions to literature of biography." Col. Church has performed his duty with skill and judgment."—*N. Y. Sun*.

ELECTRICITY IN DAILY LIFE.

A Popular Account of the Application of Electricity to Every-Day Uses. With 120 Illustrations. 8vo. \$3.00.

"The chapters are well known as authorities, and the information, while attractive in form is entirely trustworthy."—*Boston Beacon*.

** Sold by all booksellers, or sent, postpaid, by

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, 743--745 Broadway, New York.