

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°.

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