

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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—Macmillan & Co. have in press "A Dictionary of Classical Mythology, Religion, Literature, Art, and Antiquities," revised and edited from the German of Dr. Seyffert by H. Nettleship and J. E. Sandys. The work will contain nearly five hundred illustrations.

—In *Lippincott's Magazine* for December, 1890, "The Bermuda Islands" form the subject of an article by H. C. Walsh. These islands lie only about seven hundred miles from our eastern coast, and are rapidly growing in popularity as a winter resort, owing to the beauty of their scenery, their temperate climate, and the entire change of life which they afford. In "Types in Fiction," W. W. Crane takes up the cudgel against those authors "who select some particular locality or district, and take its inhabitants as specimens of a type." He objects to authors devoting their energies to portraying people not as individuals, but as samples of a certain type.

—C. W. Bardeen of Syracuse sends us "A Brief History of the Empire State," written by Welland Hendrick. It is a small quarto of two hundred pages, with many illustrations, and gives a very readable account of the history of New York and its people from the time of Henry Hudson to the present day. The author makes no pretence of original research, but has made good

use of his authorities, and presents a considerable amount of matter in a small space. The style is simple yet manly, and distinctly superior to the style of some books written for young people. Mr. Hendrick has wisely confined himself to the affairs of the State, treating those of the Union only so far as to show the part that New York has played in them. We should think that the book would be useful both in the schools and in the families of the Empire State.

—In the *Atlantic* for December Mr. Birge Harrison gives an account of the new rival of the French salon, the National Society of Fine Arts, in a paper entitled "The New Departure in Parisian Art;" Mr. A. T. Mahan, in "The United States Looking Outward," shows the isolation of the country, not only in respect to position, but in regard to trade, and prophesies a change in public opinion, which will free us from our indifference to foreign nations, and open our eyes to the necessity of the defence of our own coasts, and a more active policy of trade with other countries; and there is an essay in the Contributors' Club, on "English and American Spelling," from one who, if his name were known, would be recognized as of highest authority.

—No. 47 of the Riverside Literature Series is a small collection of fables and folk-stories, by Horace E. Scudder. They are mostly selected from the author's previous volumes, the "Book of Fables" and "Book of Folk Stories," and are arranged with reference to the difficulty of reading them. The fables are mostly from Æsop, and are well presented. The folk-tales comprise "Little Red-Riding-Hood," "Puss-in-Boots," "Jack and the Bean-Stalk," and many others. The interest of fables, especially those of Æsop, is perennial, and they convey not a little prudential wisdom; but the fantastic and often stupid folk-stories cannot, it seems to us, have any attraction except for children. To them, however, the whole book will doubtless be interesting, and its simple yet refined style ought to make it a useful reading book.

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CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Anthropological Society, Washington.

Nov. 18.—Otis T. Mason, Natural History of the Arrow; William H. Holmes, The Arrow-Maker as a Mineralogist; DeLancey W. Gill, Arrow Flaking (illustrated); Walter Hugh, Arrow Pointing and Feathering (illustrated); Thomas Wilson, Forms of Ancient Arrow-Heads; Weston Flint, Arrows in Modern Archery; W. J. Hoffman, Arrow Poisons; J. G. Bourke, Myths of the Arrow.

Philosophical Society, Washington.

Nov. 22.—Charles F. Marvin, Wind Pressures and the Measurement of Wind-Velocities; William Hallock, The Coefficient of Expansion of Some Rocks.

Natural Science Association of Staten Island.

Nov. 8, Election of Officers.—President, Dr. N. L. Britton; treasurer, Eberhard Faber; recording secretary, Charles F. Simons; corresponding secretary, Arthur Hollick; curator, Jos. C. Thompson.

Dr. Britton alluded to his recent proposition (see *Bulletin Torrey Botanical Club*, vol. xvii. p. 121) to recognize plants which, with greater or less frequency, bear flowers of a color other than the normal hue under the rank of "forms," the difference not being sufficient to class them as varieties. Mr. Hollick exhibited specimens of lignite and pyrite from the recently opened fire-clay beds at Green Ridge. This clay has been mined in this locality to a depth of about thirty feet. It is covered by from six to ten feet of drift, and is undoubtedly of cretaceous age, the same as the Kreischerville clays, the two no doubt being continuous.

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WANTED.—There being a considerable annual income for the purchase of books for the Museum Reference Library of Iowa College, it is desirable to have at hand any and all circulars, specimen sheets, catalogues, etc., of all works on Natural History in general, both foreign and domestic. Circulars of museum supplies, apparatus, etc., etc., desired also. State terms. Address ERWIN H. BARBOUR, Box 1333, Grinnell, Iowa.

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COULD some one inform me what the ingredients and origin of asphalt as used for street-paving and gathered at Trinidad are? Also how gathered and shipped by natives, and mode of refining by the Warren-Scharf Co. of New York and the Barber Co. of Washington? G. KNIPER, 28 Gunn Block, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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