the English science-teaching by the Science and Art Department is to a considerable extent that of an examining board, so that the book before us appears to be written with the purpose of supplying a most condensed array of facts. As each substance is taken up, we are told of its occurrence, mode of preparation, properties, industrial applications, and composition. The author is evidently thoroughly practical by nature, and does not devote much space to the interesting theoretical discussions in chemistry, which would seem to give the study its chief disciplinary value, before he proceeds to the detailing of the facts. But let all teachers interested examine the book, that they may at least know the methods pursued by some of their co-workers abroad.

## AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE contents of the Magazine of American History for Feb-ruary cover a wide field of subjects. The features of the geologist and geographer, Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, appear in the frontispiece, accompanied by a sketch of his career in scientific discovery. The contribution of Hon. John Jay, LL.D., entitled "The Demand for Education in American History," is the longest and most important article of the number. Mr. Jay says, "Our great authorities on history-teaching are agreed that rightly to understand, appreciate, and defend American institutions, the true plan is to know their origin and their history." The third paper, by Rev. D. F. Lamson, presents an account of the emigration from New England to New Brunswick in 1763. The fourth paper is an illustrated account of the antiquity of carriages, by Emanuel Spencer. The article which follows is also illustrated, being the story of Sir Walter Raleigh's settlements on Roanoke Island, called by its author, Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, "An Historical Survival." Rev. R. T. Cross writes of early explorations in Louisiana; H. E. Green contributes a description of "The Pickering Manuscripts" in Boston; and "The French

Army in the Revolution," translated from the French by Miss Georgine Holmes, is concluded from the January number.

— Mr. Greenough White has issued through the press of Ginn & Co. a pamphlet on "The Philosophy of American Literature," in which he endeavors to show that our literature is a native growth, and not a mere offshoot of that of England. In our opinion, the attempt is a failure. Mr. White gives a brief but excellent sketch of American literature, exhibiting its chief characteristics in the various periods, as he conceives them, very clearly; but he fails entirely to discover any real originality, or any thing distinctively American in thought or sentiment. Students of the subject will doubtless like to read Mr. White's work; but we think it will make few converts to the author's view. For our part, we can find little in our native literature but a reflex of European ideas; and we doubt if there is now extant a single work by an American writer that will be read except for historical purposes in the twentieth century.

- Readers of "Robert Elsmere" will be glad to hear that the address delivered by Mrs. Humphry Ward at the opening of University Hall has been reprinted in pamphlet form by Macmillan & Co. The special religious aims of University Hall are set forth in the pamphlet, in which mention is also made of the beginning of class-teaching under the guidance of Dr. Martineau. The same firm announce for early publication "The Life of the Right Hon. Arthur McMurrough Kavanagh," who was remarkable, having been born without arms or legs, notwithstanding which he sat in Parliament for many years, and yachted, hunted, and shot, carrying on the ordinary pursuits of a country gentleman and landlord.

— In an article entitled "An American Kew," in *Lippincott's Magazine* for February, 1891, Julian Hawthorne advocates the establishment in America of botanical gardens akin to the Kew Gardens in England. "When American naturalists," says Mr. Hawthorne, "have been furnished with a place where they can



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study new plants and determine their qualities and uses under cultivation, investigate the animal and insect pests of the vegetable kingdom that have injured and still menace local plantations, devise means to aid in providing the growing population of the continent with good things to eat and plenty of them, prosecute inquiries into the medicinal virtues of herbs, and, in a word, canvass the whole possibilities for good of the world of plants, we may expect to see our country enter upon a scene of prosperity not unworthy of our hopes and promises." This is an idea that deserves to meet with encouragement, and it is to be hoped that its suggestion will lead to its fulfilment. Charles Howard Shinn, in an article entitled "West of the Sierras," gives an excellent idea of the rapid growth and development of the State of California, as well as of its climatic advantages, the beauty of its scenery, the productiveness of its soil, etc. Mr. Shinn's descriptions of the winter resorts of California will have a particular interest at this season.

— The "Handbook of Florida," by Charles Ledyard Norton, just issued by Longmans, Green, & Co., New York, will certainly prove useful to tourists and intending settlers. The book is illustrated by forty-nine maps and plans, especial attention being given to county maps showing lines of railway. It is claimed that these last have never before been published together in such convenient shape.

— The Farmers' Alliance of Delaware has invited Professor Edmund J. James, president of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, to address the State convention at Wilmington on the subject of "Our System of Taxation in its Relation to the Farming Classes." The farmers wish to know especially whether any State has solved the problem of relieving the farming classes of the burdens which rest upon them. It will be interesting to learn what a theoretical student of taxation has to say upon this subject, and whether he will give the farmers much satisfaction. Would it not be a desirable thing for the government to call for a report upon our financial system from some of the expert students of taxation in the country, and try to find out whether the scholars have any thing valuable to say on this subject which is vexing everybody just now ?

The Shakespeare Society of New York, 21 Park Row, New York City, announces a four-text edition of "Hamlet," presenting a parallelization of the three versions of that play, which appeared in 1603, 1604, and 1623, exactly reproducing the archaic typography and characteristics of the same, verb. lit. et punct., accompanied by a translation of the German version performed in Dresden in 1626, and supposed to have been brought into Germany from London by English actors in 1603, and which throws a curious historical light upon the actual stage reading of the tragedy as presented by the London actors. The project of a fourtext "Hamlet" was a favorite with the New Shakespeare Society of London, which, as long ago as 1874, promised one, but succumbed to the typographical difficulties of the work, and finally abandoned the project. The New York Shakespeare Society believes it has surmounted those difficulties, and undertakes to furnish its subscribers, in or about the fall of 1891, with the four texts,-a volume in folio, about 16 x 10, printed on laid paper, de luxe, in the best style of The Riverside Press, about 200 pages, and bound in boards, parchment back, Bankside or Roxburge style. One hundred and fifty copies only are to be printed from the types, and hand-numbered under the society's direction.

— In Outing for February, 1891, we note "Cycling in Mid-Atlantic," by Osbert H. Howarth; "Rowing at Oxford," by Charles H. Mellen; "The Art of Daguerre," by Clarence B. Moore; "Tarpon-Fishing in Florida," by J. M. Murphy; "The Poodle," by E. H. Morris; "Ice-Fishing in the Sea of Azoff," by C. A. P. Talbot; "Wolf-Hunting in France," by Sidney H. Smith; and "Turkey-Tracking in Canadian Snow-Fields," by E. Sandys.

