

Professor Hugo Schuchardt is the most distinguished student living of mixed languages or "jargons," and his researches into their structure have been prolific of valuable results. The above is but one — the ninth — of his numerous "Creole Studies." It is one of the most instructive, as exhibiting the results of the commingling of the Portuguese with the Malayan languages, which are particularly widely apart. Like all his essays, it is replete with erudition, and marked by soundness and caution in handling facts.

The logical processes underlying language in general have been analyzed in a number of essays by Dr. Raoul de la Grasserie in his "Studies in Comparative Grammar." He has taken up in turn such topics as "the substantive verb," "pronouns," "tenses," etc., and striven to show by a very wide induction how these fundamental grammatical notions arose in the mind, and in what varied forms they sought expression in speech. The study above referred to, on "the category of moods" extends these comparisons to that feature of the verb. It is a masterly application of the principles of psychology to the evolution of language.

The Elements of Dynamic Electricity and Magnetism. By PHILIP ATKINSON. New York, Van Nostrand. 405 p. 8°.

As this is intended more for learners than for the learned, it appeals to a larger circle than do many other works on the subjects treated, and, for the same reason, mathematical formulæ are conspicuous by their absence. Mathematical reasoning, where required, has been, so far as possible, rendered intelligible to non-mathematical readers by the use of ordinary language and some unavoidable circumlocution, so that the amount of mathematical formulæ required has been practically reduced to a few simple expressions easily understood by persons familiar with arithmetic.

The work is divided into thirteen chapters, each of which is intended to be a complete treatise on the subject to which it relates, and the whole to embrace all the essential facts pertaining to dynamic electricity.

The chronological order of electrical development has been followed pretty closely, thus not only giving a condensed history of the progress made in the science, but also showing the relations of each successive important invention to those which preceded and followed it. The style of the work is as clear as a due regard for the conciseness necessary in such a treatise will admit.

The different parts of the subject are taken up in the following order, a chapter being devoted to each. The voltaic battery, with definitions of the terms used; one-fluid cells; two-fluid cells, and battery formation; magnetism; electromagnetism; electric measurement; the dynamo and motor; electrolysis; electric storage; the relations of electricity to heat; the relations of electricity to light; the electric telegraph; and the telephone.

Prussian Schools through American Eyes. By JAMES RUSSELL PARSONS, JR. Syracuse. Bardeen. 8° \$1.

THE author of this book was recently United States Consul at Aix-la-Chapelle, and was employed by the authorities of the State of New York to make a report on the organization and methods of the Prussian schools, with a view to obtaining hints from them for the improvement of our own. Having been a school commissioner in New York State for some years, and being greatly interested in the public schools, Mr. Parsons took up the task assigned him with ardor and intelligence, and now gives us in this volume the result of his inquiries. The report is drawn up in the usual style of public documents, with little pretence of literary form, so that it is not so attractive to the reader as it might otherwise have been; but it presents a large amount of information concerning the Prussian schools in a form convenient for reference. It treats of the organization and government of the schools, the methods of discipline and of teaching, with some account of the buildings and apparatus, and gives a very full exposition of the courses of study. The normal schools are also dwelt upon at considerable length, and the mode of training teachers described.

Mr. Parsons is an admirer of the Prussian system, which he declares to be the best in the world; yet he sees that there is much in it which our people, accustomed to greater freedom and not

readily submissive to government drill, would not be willing to adopt. Two of the main points of superiority in the Prussian schools, as compared with those of New York, are, in his view, the compulsory education law, which is rigidly enforced, and the official courses of study for the various schools, which insure a higher average grade of instruction than is usual in New York. Mr. Parsons also calls attention to the fact that school commissioners in Prussia must be properly trained for their work, and must have served for a time as teachers before being appointed to the higher office; whereas in this country the main qualification of such officers is the ability to secure a majority of the votes in a popular election. These are, in his opinion, the points in which we might most advantageously imitate the Prussian system; but he also notices a few others, while in some respects he shows that our own schools are superior. The report may be heartily recommended to all who are interested in the subject.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

PHOTOGRAPHIC amateurs will read with interest Ellerslie Wallace's paper on "Photographic Dark Rooms," in *Outing* for May.

— The *Home Journal* devotes an entire page of its issue of May 6 to what may be called a guide to London hotels, though the formality of a "Guide" is avoided, and the information is put in a style which renders it entertaining even to the stay-at-home tourist.

— The May 2 issue of *The Medical and Surgical Reporter*, Philadelphia, is the first to appear under the new editor, Edward T. Reichert, M.D. The paper has been enlarged from twenty-eight to forty pages.

— William Cushing, 19 Ware Street, Cambridge, Mass., has been employed during the last year in collecting brief biographical notices of Harvard graduates, which he hopes soon to publish under the title "Harvard Graduates Before 1860."

— John Wiley & Sons have in preparation a work on "Car Lubrication," by W. E. Hall of the Pennsylvania Railroad; "The Mechanical Engineer's Pocket-Book," by William Kent, M.E.; also "The Transitive Curve Field Book," by Clinton R. Howard, C.E.

— The Salem Press Publishing and Printing Company, Salem, Mass., will publish in June, "Salem Witchcraft in Outline," by Caroline E. Upham, a niece of Dr. O. W. Holmes. In August they will publish "Historic Storms," by Sidney Perley; an interesting account of the great storms, cold winters, hot summers, etc., from 1620 to the present.

— Ginn & Co. have just published "Business Book-Keeping," a manual of modern methods in recording business transactions by single entry. George E. Gay of the High School, Malden, Mass., is the author. The forms given in the book are taken from the methods of the best accountants, are well adapted to their purpose, and are presented in a manner that appears to be both practical and satisfactory.

— *Babyhood* for May contains an article on "Chronic Throat Troubles Resulting from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, and How to Prevent Them," by Dr. D. Bryson Delavan, which lays stress on the fact, not generally known, that a considerable proportion of catarrhal diseases of the throat and nose have their origin in one of the above complaints. Many other medical topics of interest to mothers are discussed under "Nursery Problems."

— We have received from C. W. Bardeen of Syracuse a small volume entitled "Apperception," which is intended more especially for teachers. It should have been entitled "Perception," for that is the subject of the book, and indeed the barbarous term "apperception" is nowhere used except upon the title-page. The main purpose of the author is to call attention to the fact that the perception of outward things is largely a matter of interpretation, every new object requiring to be classified and assigned its proper place in the general system of our knowledge. There is nothing new or striking in the book, but it may be suggestive to teachers