

—Those who have profited by the study of Verschoyle's "History of Ancient Civilization" will be gratified to learn that Messrs. D. Appleton & Co. are about to publish a volume which may be called a pendant or supplement of Verschoyle's work. This is "A History of Modern Civilization," a handbook based on Gustav Ducoudray's history. In this book "the author and adapter," according to a London critic, "have reached one of the rarest results in literary work, a summary at once comprehensive and readable."

—L. Reeve & Co., London, have in preparation a new work on the "British Fungi Phycomicetes and Ustilagineæ," by George Massee, lecturer on botany for the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching; a work on the British "Hemiptera Heteroptera," by Edward Saunders; a new work on the Lepidoptera of the British Islands," by Charles G. Barrett; and a new work on the "Physiology of the Invertebrata," by Dr. A. A. Griffiths.

—The *Chautauquan* for October has several illustrated articles and the portraits of a number of prominent women. Of the articles we note "Domestic and Social Life of the Colonists," I., by Edward Everett Hale; "Land Tenure in the United States," by D. McG. Means; "The History of Political Parties in America," by F. W. Hewes; "Physical Life," I., by Milton J. Greenman; "National Agencies for Scientific Research," by Major J. W. Powell; "Science, the Handmaid of Agriculture," by George

William Hill; "Social Science in Society," by John Habberton; "The Bohemians in America," by Thomas Capek; and "The Citizenship of Crime," by Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods.

—T. Y. Crowell & Co. have just ready, among other books, their new edition of Charles Dickens' complete works in fifteen and thirty volumes; "Making the Most of Life," by Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D.; "A Score of Famous Composers," by Nathan H. Dole; "Famous English Statesmen," by Mrs. Sarah K. Bolton; and the fourth volume of Sybel's "The Founding of the German Empire by William I."

—The present condition of the peasants in the Russian empire is the subject of a paper submitted by Vicomte Combes de Les-trade to the American Academy of Political and Social Science and published by the Academy. Every one remembers the enthusiasm which greeted the emancipation of the serfs by Alexander II. in 1861. The author of this monograph holds that he deserves credit for what he wished to do rather than for what he did. It is somewhat startling to be told by one who speaks from careful personal observation of the existing conditions that the authority of which the Seigneurs were stripped has only been transferred to the *mir*. This word and the system for which it stands are absolutely new to us. The author explains its organization and practical working, and recites the peculiar conditions under which the peasant is allowed to withdraw from the *mir* to which he belongs. The paper gives a sketch of the actual char-

Publications received at Editor's Office,  
Sept. 2-15.

- HOWARD, C. R. The Transition-curve Field-Book. New York, Wiley. 109 p. 16°.  
KINMONT, A. The Natural History of Man. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 335 p. 12°. \$1.  
NAVAL Progress, The Year's. Annual of the Office of Naval Intelligence; July, 1891. Washington, Government. 491 p. 8°.  
RAILWAY Law and Legislation. A weekly magazine of information regarding laws, etc. Vol. I. No. 1. w. Washington, D. C., Canaday & West. 20 p. 8°. \$3 per year.  
SMITH, S. A. The Source and Nature of Electricity, and Its Application to the Electro-Plating Process. Providence, Gorham M'fg Co. 35 p. 12°.  
THURSTON, R. H. A Manual of the Steam-Engine. Part I. Structure and Theory. New York, Wiley. 871 p. 8°. \$7.50.

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—According to the *Japanese Gazette*, printed in Yokohama, "during the month of June there were 5,575 persons who took books from the Tokyo Free Library, nearly all of them in the Japanese and Chinese languages. Among the 36,687 volumes drawn, 7,482 were books of history, biography, and geography, 6,753 of law and politics, 6,600 of literature and language, 5,877 of natural philosophy and medicine, 4,174 of engineering, the arts, and industries, 2,087 of philosophy and education, and the rest were of a miscellaneous kind."

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