

and, if we may judge from the names of the books and authors given in the prospectus, are likely to be of real value. The volume before us is by the editor of the series, and is devoted to a history of esthetics from the days of the Greek philosophers to the present time. Another volume is projected by the author, in which he will discuss the subjects of beauty and art themselves, and will present a constructive theory of his own. The present work is a succinct but useful summary of the teachings of previous writers, presented with impartiality and in a clear and attractive style. The ancient writers are first treated of, Plato and Aristotle occupying the foremost places; and then, after a brief glance at certain mediæval philosophers, the esthetic writers of modern times are taken up, those of each nation being grouped together. Thus the philosophy of Germany from the earliest times to the present is first dealt with, then those of France, Italy, Holland, Britain, and America. This arrangement enables us to see the effect of national genius on the philosophy and criticism of art, but fails to show with equal clearness what the writers of one nation have owed to those of another. The principal fault of Professor Knight's work, as it seems to us, is the attention given to insignificant authors, who contributed nothing to the subject, either by philosophy or by criticism, and who might better have been passed over in silence. The impression produced on the mind by the book is in one respect discouraging, for it seems to show that little real advance in the philosophy of beauty has been made since ancient days. The theory, first promulgated by Plato and afterwards adopted by Aristotle, that the essence of beauty consists in harmony and proportion, still holds its ground; but the dispute between Aristotelian realism and Platonic idealism is as unsettled as ever. We commend Professor Knight's book to students of esthetics, and shall look with interest for his second volume.

Electricity and Magnetism. Translated from the French of AMEDEE GUILLEMIN. Revised and edited by Silvanus P. Thompson. London and New York, Macmillan. 8°. \$8.

THIS is certainly as fine a piece of book making in the line of the physical sciences as we remember having seen for some time. A few French writers have in the past brought out these handsome volumes in popular exposition of this or that branch of science, and occasionally these have been translated. But there have been few published in English except as translations.

That Professor Silvanus P. Thompson is known as the writer of good books in electrical science goes without saying, and his standing as a physicist is unquestioned, as has been recognized by his election not many years ago as a Fellow of the Royal Society. The editor, however, claims responsibility on but a few points. The chapters on dynamo-electric machines and on the telephone were largely rewritten by him, and brought into accordance with modern knowledge; and throughout the book frequent editorial notes in brackets are inserted that bring the statements up to date.

The book is not intended for the student, but as a popular, simple, non-mathematical exposition of the science which now attracts such general interest. The volume is certainly one on which a great amount of labor and money must have been expended, but there has been left in a great deal of matter of purely historical interest, matter not of a character likely to please any one looking only for the latest information. Electrical science has moved considerably in the past ten years, and it has been difficult for the editor to conceal the evident influence of the Pan-Electrical Exposition of 1881 as a recent event on the French original.

When one is asked for a popular book on electricity and magnetism, the answer is a difficult one, since such valuable manuals as the "Principles of Electricity and Magnetism," by Professor Thompson, may prove too formally scientific for the untrained reader. There is certainly no other work in English that treats electricity and magnetism in so untechnical a way as does this by Guillemin; we only question whether it might not have been of half the size and served its purpose as well. The first part of the volume is devoted to the pure science, the second to the applications in the industries.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

F. A. BROCKHAUS, Leipzig, announces a new edition (the fourteenth) of his "Brockhaus' Konversation-Lexikon." The first volume of the first edition was published in 1796, so that the present is projected as a sort of century-jubilee edition. The work will be very much enlarged and printed in a sumptuous manner. It may be had in 256 weekly parts or in sixteen bound volumes.

— Messrs. D. Appleton & Co. are about to publish "Freeland: A Social Anticipation," by Dr. Theodor Hertzka, a book which has been called the German "Looking Backward." This work describes an imaginary colony in equatorial Africa, in which Dr. Hertzka's economic system of land and capital nationalization, combined with absolutely untrammelled industrial competition, is carried out. The book has given rise already to local societies in Vienna, Buda Pest, Prague, Czerarowitz, Berlin, Hamburg, Brunswick, Hanover, and some fourteen other places, which will ultimately be united into an International Free Society for the purpose of establishing such a colony as is described in the book.

— *Babyhood* contains the following among other articles in its October issue: "The Management and Care of Near-Sighted Eyes," by J. M. Mills, M.D.; "The Airing and Exercise of Infants," by Alfred Stengel, M.D.; "The Bones in Childhood," by Harriet Brooke Smith, M.D.; "Nursery Ventilation;" "The Nursery Chair;" "Sweets;" "From One to Five;" "How to Carry the Baby;" "Neglect of Milk Crust;" "Fat Babies vs. Lean Babies;" "Blowing Baby's Nose;" "A Night Jacket;" "Washing Baby's Flannels;" "Contagion from Whooping Cough;" "Buying a Cow for the Baby;" "Condensed Milk for a Long Journey;" "Quantity of Food at One Year;" "Hard and Soft Water as Affecting Teeth;" "A Cure for the Green Apple Habit."

— "Seas and Lands" is the title Sir Edwin Arnold has given to the account of his recent travels, which the Longmans will publish at once. The earlier chapters are devoted to Canada and the United States, but the bulk of the book is given up to Japan as it impressed the author of the "Light of Asia" day by day. There are more than forty full page illustrations from photographs. The same firm will issue at once Canon Farrar's new copyright novel, "Darkness and Dawn; or, Scenes in the Days of Nero." This historic tale is the author's first venture into fiction for many years, and it is the result of his investigation into the early history of Christianity. He has stuck more closely to the facts than most writers of fiction, and he declares that the "outline of his story is determined by the actual events of pagan and Christian history."

— In the *Magazine of American History* for October an article by the editor, "A Group of Columbus Portraits," deals with facts and picture-pedigrees, giving fac-similes of the oldest and rarest engraved prints of Columbus portraiture extant, with much other data of timely consequence. The double-headed contemporary print of the portraits of Ferdinand and Isabella is included; and Mrs. Lamb adds to her essay suggestive sketches of those sovereigns and their great military triumphs in connection with Columbus and the dawn of America upon the map of the world. W. F. Ganong follows with a paper on "The St. Croix of the Northeastern Boundary," and four illustrative maps. "Hugh McCulloch on Daniel Webster" is an excerpt of interest. The longest article in the number is a study by Right Reverend M. F. Howley, D.D., P.A., of Newfoundland, on "Cabot's Landfall," the scene of which he traces, according to his judgment, in an elaborate accompanying map. Then comes a contribution pertinent to the approaching World's Fair, "The Sultan of Turkey and the Chicago Exhibition," by Frederick Diodati Thompson, touching on the calamities and historic growth of Chicago, and presenting many facts about Turkey and its ruler, whose visit to America on the opening of the Columbian exposition is foreshadowed. Other articles include "Philadelphia in 1778 through Foreign Eyes," and "Napoleon Bonaparte and Peace with America."

— Dr. De Kroustekoff, an eminent chemist and mineralogist of St. Petersburg, recently paid a visit of some weeks to the United States, charged with a scientific mission by the Russian Govern-