

anything could, the mode of treatment of the subject; and, as to the scope of the book, it may be said that all the usual phenomena of light are described, and something of the theory given, though we do not find any reference to the recent investigations of Hertz and others showing experimentally the relation between light phenomena and those of electricity. Macmillan & Co. are the New York publishers.

—The Rev. Alfred J. Church, the well-known author of "Stories from Homer," etc., has written a novel of the time of Nero, which Macmillan & Co. will publish under the title of "The Burning of Rome." The book, which contains a number of illustrations, is just ready.

—"Principles and Practice of Plumbing," by S. Stevens Hellyer has just been issued by D. Van Nostrand Co., New York. It would seem that it might be difficult to find a person with sufficient knowledge of plumbing and having the habit of writing sufficiently developed who could produce a book on the subject. These two qualities are united in Mr. Hellyer, who is known for his earlier books, "The Plumber and Sanitary Houses," and "Lectures on the Science and Art of Sanitary Plumbing." The present volume is one of the series of "Technological Handbooks" edited by Sir H. Trueman Wood, Secretary of the London Society of Arts, to which Prof. William Crookes, for instance, contributed the initial number, on "Dyeing and Tissue-printing." The

opening chapters are devoted to lead and its many uses in building operations, but the rest of the book contains much on what is known as sanitary engineering, at least in so far as this may be limited to the house.

—Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have published a small volume entitled "Land of the Lingering Snow," by Frank Bolles, being an account of outdoor walks in New England in spring time. It is, therefore, somewhat in the style of Thoreau's works, though Mr. Bolles is hardly equal to his prototype. His work is almost entirely descriptive, with hardly any of those moral reflections such as often light up the pages of Thoreau. Moreover, it is too full of petty detail, as the following specimen passage will show: "Leaving the railway, I wound my way back towards Stony Brook, passing through groves of small oaks, meadows full of treacherous pools covered with brittle ice, belts of whispering white-pines, apple orchards and wood-roads leading up hill and down, ending nowhere. Four miles of this wandering brought me to Kendal Green station in Weston, with a record of twenty crows, eighteen chickadees, sixteen tree-sparrows and three blue jays" (p. 40-41). For lovers of nature, however, the book will have an interest, and it is written in a simple and refined style.

—The November number of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* is interesting on account of the number of articles it contains which discuss new ideas

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