

activity in that science and by his labors extending to the present day has done much to further its advance. His first publications date from 1835 and include many valuable memoirs, but in this country he is probably best known through his treatise on chemistry in six volumes, and through his magnificent chemical encyclopedia. Probably his most recent work is that published but a short time ago in conjunction with a pupil, M. Verneuil, a treatise on the artificial production of rubies.

—An "Elementary Textbook of Agricultural Botany of the University Extension Series," by M. C. Potter, Professor of Botany in the Durham College of Science, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has just been published by Methuen and Co., of London. The writer considers it the best botany extant for beginners. Scientific facts are presented in such a clear, forcible and interesting way that the rudiments of botany may be acquired by its use with little effort and without the aid of a teacher. It begins at once with the study of the cell instead of the seed, as is customary in such books. He treats of the seed under the fruit where it belongs and of which it is the essential part. The study of the microscopical parts of plants is too often neglected because of a lack of knowledge of the use of the microscope and technique, without which, however, it is superficial and disjointed. There is a chapter on plant food, another on reproduction, another on grasses, another on the bean family with its bacteroids and another very valuable chapter on the commonest plant diseases. It ends with a brief system of classification. The book is invaluable to young agriculturists, for whom it was especially intended. The writer has introduced it into his beginning classes and finds it excellent.

—The Open Court Publishing Company have issued Professor Ribot's work on "The Diseases of Personality" in their Religion of Science Library. By diseases of personality M. Ribot means such nervous diseases as affect the mind, including not only the various forms of insanity

but also the milder kinds of mental disorder, whether affecting the intellect or the emotions; but as the work before us was noticed in *Science* when it appeared in a bound volume some years ago, we need not dwell on the author's views now. The books forming the Religion of Science Library, of which this is the fourth, are published in pamphlet form, with good clear type, at twenty-five cents a number, or \$1.50 a year, and will include works both new and old on various subjects in science and philosophy.

—The University Press at Cambridge has undertaken to publish a complete translation of the Pali Jataka or "Buddha Birth-stories," which are supposed to be the oldest collection of folk-lore stories in existence. The first volume is now in the press, and has been prepared by Mr. R. Chalmers, late of Oriel College, Oxford, a former pupil of Prof. Rhys Davids. It will contain the forty stories given in Prof. Rhys Davids's discontinued translation, but will also give the remainder of the first volume of Prof. Fausbøll's edition of the Pali text. The second volume is translated by Mr. W. H. D. Rouse, Fellow of Christ's College, and the third by Mr. R. A. Neil, Fellow and assistant-tutor of Pembroke College, and Mr. H. T. Francis, under-librarian of the University Library at Cambridge and late Fellow of Gonville and Caius College. The whole translation will appear under the editorship of Prof. Cowell, of Cambridge. The work is expected to fill seven or eight volumes; but at present only five volumes of the Pali text have appeared. Each volume of the text is to be represented by a volume of the translation. This Buddhist collection of stories will be of great interest and importance for students of folk-lore; and it will also be of value as illustrating the manners and customs of ancient India. The stories are generally told in a simple popular style, with not infrequent touches of quaint humor and pathos; and they give us a moving panorama of Hindu society in the immediate centuries before our era.

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