

carelessness engendered by delayed casualty, suddenly become the scenes of disaster and great loss of life. M. Le Chatelier has brought together a great mass of facts from many sources and has so presented them as to place them conveniently within reach of all workers in the field. Part I. treats of the nature and production of fire damp, its composition, manner of explosion, its limit of inflammability, and other properties, physical and chemical. Part II. is highly practical and is devoted to the consideration of the immediate cause of accidents, with precautions against the same, the use of safety lamps and of safety explosives, etc. To those desiring a more extended treatment of any of these subjects, or those wishing to consult original papers, the very complete Bibliography which is given at the end of the work will be of great service, particularly as a guide to continental publications.

CHARLES PLATT.

PHILADELPHIA.

*At the North of Bearcamp Water.—Chronicles of a Stroller in New England from July to December.*—By FRANK BOLLES.—Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 16 mo. pp. 297.

Any one who will go afield in the rain for the purpose of seeing how the wet birch trees look, or who will stay through a stormy night on a mountain top for the sake of the scenery, has certainly a lively interest in nature. The late Frank Bolles had all of this interest and in addition a kindly sympathy with every wandering creature. In his last book, *At the North of Bearcamp Water*, one does not find as many paragraphs suitable for quotations on a daily calendar as would occur in a volume of Thoreau, but his description of a July afternoon when "The air was full of quivering heat and hazy midsummer softness," has all the strength of beauty and truth.

The book particularly describes nature in the vicinity of Chocorua mountain, but there are also chapters on Old Shag, Bear

and other White Mountain peaks. In these accounts of scenery of deer, foxes, birds and trees there is an evident truthfulness, as real as the objects themselves. The mass of detail brought into some of these chapters is surprising, and a frog did not jump across the path without being made to play his part in the account of the day's ramble.

Among the most interesting pages are those devoted to 'A Lonely Link,' and to 'A Night Alone on Chocorua.' Mr. Bolles had his red roofed cottage by the lake and describes the squirrels, muskrats, porcupines, and many birds that were his neighbors. The narrative is peaceful in tone, as restful as a quiet ramble in the woods, and those who wish to be transported in spirit to pleasing natural scenes will do well to accept Mr. Bolles as guide.

W. T. DAVIS.

#### NOTES.

##### THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

The Botanical Society of America was organized during the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Brooklyn, N. Y., in August, 1894. The following extracts from the Constitution adopted are of general interest.

"There may be two classes of members—active and honorary. Only American botanists engaged in research, who have published work of recognized merit, shall be eligible to active membership. Before the 1st of January following his election, each active member shall pay into the treasury of the Society a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25), and thereafter annual dues to the amount of ten dollars (\$10), payable before the 1st of January."

"Candidates for active membership shall be recommended by three active members of the Society not members of the Council, who shall certify that the candidate is eligible under the provisions of the Constitution. These nominations shall be placed in