

It is not pleasant to be obliged to record the complete failure of Professor Palmer's attempt to 'make the sound German speak good English.' The 'sound German' seems to be unusually refractory in his hands, and frequently refuses not only to 'speak good English,' but also to speak any kind of intelligible English at all.

An unpleasant appearance is given to the pages by the translator's unfortunate practice of introducing phrases from the original, sometimes directly, sometimes in curiously infelicitous translation. Thus, in the section in which the applications of the first law of heat to chemical reactions are discussed we read, to express thermal evolution or absorption, either 'Wärmetönung,' which is clear enough, but out of place, or 'heat toning,' a phrase which one struggles vainly to comprehend. Thus he replaces the word element by the remarkable expression 'ground-stuff.' He advocates the introduction of the term 'Knall gas,' and employs it faithfully himself. Rarely the translation attains to complete unintelligibility, *e. g.*, on page 149:

"The choice of a suitable hypothesis to be advanced can be easily made, now or never, in the case before us."

It must be admitted that Professor Palmer's English is by no means pleasant reading. Those with any feeling for the right use of language will be incessantly irritated by it, and even others will be not infrequently annoyed by the unnecessary difficulties which it introduces.

The defects of the translation are undoubtedly serious. But for this there is much compensation. It is plain that the translator has followed the wonderful development of the new science faithfully, and his own comprehension of the subject is evident on every page. The student who will forgive the obvious defects, which, after all, concern rather the appearance than the substance, and give to the book an earnest,

thoughtful reading, can not fail to derive from it a large amount of valuable information.

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*Proceedings of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education*, Vol II., Brooklyn Meeting, 1894. Edited by Professors Swain, Baker and Johnson. 8vo, pp. viii., 292. \$2.50.

This excellent collection of interesting and helpful papers is issued to the members of the Society; but, as we understand from an inserted slip, copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Professor J. B. Johnson, of Washington University, St. Louis, at the regular price paid by members. The volume is well made up, and its contents justify a good form of make-up. The book contains the usual statement of the objects of the Society, the rules, and the lists of officers and members, followed by the complete papers of the the meeting of 1894. The Society was organized in Chicago in 1893, and its next meeting, at Brooklyn, is that here given record. Its membership, already about 160, includes probably the majority of the recognized leaders among representatives of the department of education to which it belongs. The discussions are mainly on subjects of immediate interest to the teachers in the professional engineering schools, and are necessarily of great importance to them and their pupils, though perhaps less attractive to the average reader than are discussions of educational matters generally. The requirements for admission, the character and designation of the degrees properly conferred, the teachers and the text-books, methods and extent of shop and laboratory work, and forms of curricula suitable to this special work, are the main topics, and they are well and dispassionately treated. The volume is full of useful and instructive matter.

R. H. T.