

only determines which sort of sensation furnishes the common coin of his mental exchange. A person who is motor in this sense may or may not be more impulsive than a good visualizer; it all depends on whether his motor cues habitually bring with them contrary suggestions. Experience seems to show that some of the most hesitating of us act from motor cues, while some of the most impulsive persons are of the 'sensory' and, indeed, of the visual type. We are hardly in a position, therefore, to hold out the hope that the ordinary type-tests will decide whether a boy needs encouragement in precipitateness or in hesitancy. Whether he is too cautious or too headlong is to be settled by observations *ad hoc*, and is not decided by discovering which sense furnishes the stuff of his mental imagery.

But details of this sort to which objections might be raised are not many nor are they so important as to affect the general tone of the book. As a whole it does admirable justice to the more fruitful lines of modern work and will be acceptable to the wide circle of persons who wish some intelligent guidance in psychology, without aiming to be students of it in the stricter sense. Even classes in psychology might well supplement their reading by a fresh narrative like this. And as for the poor school-teachers, accustomed to their juiceless 'teachers' psychologies,' they will with difficulty believe that a book which is really interesting can be the genuine thing.

G. M. STRATTON.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

How to Know the Ferns. By FRANCES THEODORA PARSONS. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1899. 12mo. Pp. 215. Price, \$1.50.

When science has its cold matter-of-fact angularities concealed by a certain amount of folk-lore, personal adventure and innocent poetical quotation the popular mind takes it in unwittingly without feeling the chilliness of the morsel, and if they are abraded by the angles, there is lubrication and mollification in the dressing that makes one forget the pain. The ordinary unscientific reader is shocked if told at once that an innocent looking fern is a *Cystopteris*, but when he is introduced to it as the

'bulblet bladder-fern' the added syllables cause him no uneasiness and it is quite a different matter. All this softening of the rough angles of a scientific treatise is heightened if attractive illustration furnishes the ready opportunity to save the often tedious work of identification through technical language.

Such a happy combination we have presented in a most attractive form in the book before us. The popular interest is attracted by the personal narratives and one forgets the personal pronouns; one forgets even the rather doubtful compliment paid to the main subject when one reads that 'the greatest charm the ferns possess is that of their surroundings,' a fact emphasized by the frontispiece where the pose of the handsome young woman surely throws 'the cheerful community of polypody' quite into the shade, yet a more attractive picture could scarcely have been chosen.

The work is well written and is really one that can scarcely do otherwise than interest many people who have neither the time nor the mental perseverance for severe study, in one of the most delightful of subjects, and it will certainly bring many into a closer touch with Nature and her productions. The text is in the main very accurate, and the illustrations really illustrate the subject, and do it so well that one must be blind who cannot with their aid identify the ferns of the Northern States. The drawings by Miss Satterlee with less of the impressionist touch appeal more strongly to the cold scientific eye, though all of them are well executed, and the full-page half tones are well chosen and excellent.

While the authoress appears to us under a new name, we recognize in Mrs. Parsons the same writer that a few years ago as Mrs. Dana gave us the equally valuable book, 'How to Know the Wild Flowers.' Armed with these two, many who heretofore have had only guides that were too severe for their summer's outing can be easily and delightfully introduced to the ferns as well as the flowers of the woods and fields.

L. M. UNDERWOOD.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Principes d'hygiène coloniale. GEORGES TREILLE. Paris, Carré and C. Naud. 1899. Pp. 272.