

have a beneficial influence. Mr. Mills sees, as most of us do, the evils attendant on caucuses and on party management generally, but he does not suggest any thing new in the way of remedy. He has also some good remarks on the folly of mere office-seeking and the nobleness of disinterested statesmanship. We are sorry to have to add that the typography of the book is very bad indeed. Such misspellings as 'monopolies,' 'forsee,' 'weich' for 'which,' and 'ptofit' for 'profit,' are frequent. On p. 159 there are three words misspelled; and on p. 73 is the following sentence: "A party as a party cannot refuse to meet an issue *squarly* at the ballot box, and then as a party *squarly* meet it anywhere else." Surely American typography can do better than that.

Grundriss der Psychologie. Von Dr. F. WOLLNY. Leipzig, Thomas. 8°.

IT is difficult to classify this pamphlet. It is not an elementary text-book, because it lacks all system, and treats special topics. It is not a technical contribution, for it is full of commonplaces, and has no definite end in view. Perhaps it is best to regard it as an expression of the author's interests, and as such it has little interest. The author declares his atheistic tendencies, and introduces much not very relevant ethical matter. After discussing in a very unsystematic and eclectic manner the elementary mental powers, — sensation, will, perception, memory, — both separately and in combined action, he adds a few short chapters on sleep and dreams, on insanity, on animal mind, and on alleged higher psychic powers. About the only noteworthy passages are to be found in the preface and in the appendix. The former announces that the author intends to keep psychology and physiology distinct, and has no sympathy with tedious and meaningless psychophysical experiments. As a matter of fact, the topics treated often demand a physiological treatment, and many of the chapters begin with the statement of such a fact. Instead of taking it from a physiological text-book, the author records it as his own experience. It is difficult to take his objections seriously. The appendix contains a great 'discovery.' The human body is susceptible to magnetic influence. Furthermore, if one person in the neighborhood of a magnet concentrates his attention upon another, a subtle connection between the two is made, and one can read the thoughts of the other without sensory transfer. To this so-called 'fact' are added a host of fanciful notions with much mysticism. It is queer in what various forms these unscientific notions arise. Finally, the book is written in orthodox German style, — ponderous, 'bagged' sentences and involved constructions.

Italian Grammar. By C. H. GRANDGENT. Boston, Heath. 12°.

IN this volume the author, who is tutor in modern languages in Harvard University, has attempted, and very successfully we think, to put into convenient form and small compass sufficient of the grammar of the Italian language to meet the requirements of the ordinary student. The book, though representing Italian as at present spoken and written, gives as many obsolete forms as may be necessary for a student of the Italian classics. It is prepared specially for use in colleges, but it will prove serviceable to any student familiar with English grammar.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A PARTY of forty engineers and their assistants, about a hundred and fifty in all, will leave this city about the end of this month for Nicaragua, to locate the exact route of the inter-oceanic canal, and to obtain data from which to make accurate estimates as to the cost of the work. The expedition will be in charge of Engineer Perry, and will be joined a few weeks later by Chief-Engineer Menocal.

— A recent public test of the consolidated railway, telegraph system of train-telegraphy, made on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, gave very satisfactory results. On a train moving sixty miles an hour, messages were sent and received to and from other trains on the road, and communication was had with this city and with different stations on the line.

— We have received from the Clarendon Press the first number of *Annals of Botany*, edited by Isaac Bayley Balfour, Sydney How-

ard Vines, and William Gilson Farlow, assisted by other botanists. The contents are, 'On Some Points in the Histology and Physiology of the Fruits and Seeds of *Rhamnus*,' by H. Marshall Ward; 'On the Structure of the Mucilage-secreting Cells of *Blechnum occidentale*, L., and *Osmunda regalis*, L.,' by W. Gardiner and Tokutaro Ito; 'On Laticiferous Tissue in the Pith of *Manihot Glaziovii*, and on the Presence of Nuclei in this Tissue,' by Agnes Calvert and L. A. Boodle; 'Anomalous Thickening in the Roots of *Cycas Seemannii*, Al. Braun,' by W. H. Gregg; notes; review of Sachs's 'Physiology of Plants;' and record of current literature.

— The fifth biennial report of the Kansas State Historical Society shows the work of the society for the two years ending Jan. 18, 1887. The society was then eleven years old. The primary object of the society is that of collecting, arranging, and cataloguing a library of the materials of Kansas history, including books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, pictures, and, in short, every thing which contains information concerning and going to illustrate the history of Kansas. Incidentally, so interwoven has been the history of Kansas with that of the whole country, and so much has it enlisted a general interest, its library has come to be the recipient, largely by gift, of not only the materials of the history, but of every thing of a literary and scientific character relating to all parts of the country. The total of the library in January last was, of bound volumes, 8,352; unbound volumes, 21,103; bound newspaper files and volumes of periodicals, 5,986; making the total of the library, 35,441. Its yearly accession of the files of local newspapers is no doubt greater than that of any other library in the country. The regular issues of all the local newspapers, daily and weekly, published in every county in Kansas, are freely given the society by the publishers, and are bound, and placed on the shelves of the library. Thus is being preserved the best of all materials of the history of every town and neighborhood in the State. The report, among other lists and tables, contains a list of the newspapers at the present time published in Kansas; viz., 72 dailies, 12 semi-weeklies, 722 weeklies, 38 monthlies, 1 semi-monthly, 1 bi-monthly, 4 quarterlies, and 2 occasionals, numbering 852 in all. The library is the property of the State, and is kept in rooms in the State Capitol.

— Among the latest issues of the Clarendon Press (Macmillan & Co.) is a batch of classical books that are worthy of careful examination. The list includes the 'Phormio' of Terence, Cicero's Catilinarian orations, 'The Knights' of Aristophanes, the 'Eclogues' of Vergil, the first book of Tacitus' 'Annals,' and, in the Elementary Classics Series, the seventh book of Cæsar's 'Commentaries.' They are all gotten up in that attractive and elegant way that characterizes the Macmillans' work. Particular attention is due, perhaps, to Dr. Merry's careful and accurate edition of the 'Knights' of Aristophanes. Both introduction and notes are extremely well done.

— A series of lectures (twenty to twenty-four in number) will be given at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, by Professor Whitney, on geographical methods and results. The course will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 3 P.M. Admission free; but tickets must be obtained of the lecturer, by application through the mail or in person; and in their distribution, since the accommodation is limited, preference will be given to teachers, for whom the course is specially intended.

— The frequently observed longevity of eminent English scientists is again shown in the high ages at which recently deceased fellows of the Royal Society have died. Of fourteen fellows, six lived to more than eighty years, and only one was under sixty at the time of his death. The average age at death of the fourteen is no less than seventy-five years.

— Oscar Harger, for eighteen years the chief assistant of Prof. O. C. Marsh, died in New Haven, Nov. 6. Mr. Harger was born at Oxford, Conn., and was graduated from Yale College in the class of '68. He was one of the high-stand members of his class, and was looked upon at graduation as a young man of exceeding great promise. When he graduated, his health had been considerably impaired in consequence of hard study and application to literary and other work, which he did in order to secure money to pay his expenses through college. In 1870 Mr. Harger became assistant