

—Welch, Fracker Company have published a work entitled "In Western Levant," by Francis C. Sessions, illustrated by Henry W. Hall. It is a record of travel in Spain, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis, with brief descriptions of the most noted cities and architectural works, as well as of the character and habits of the people. There is nothing of much scientific interest in the book, the author having evidently sought for entertainment during his travels rather than for information; and the work is marred by a too florid rhetoric. Nevertheless those who are fond of books of travel will find many items of interest in this one. It is printed on good paper, suitable for the illustrations, which are pleasing.

—The fifth volume of the new edition of "Chambers's Encyclopædia" has been issued, and deals with the various topics from "Friday" to "Humanitarians." The scientific articles are quite numerous and important. Professor Geikie treats of geology; John S. Keltie, of geography; J. S. Mackay, of geometry; P. G. Tait, of heat; J. Arthur Thompson, of heredity; and there are many other articles that would demand notice in a minute survey of the work. Among the articles of a political and historical character are those on Germany, Great Britain, Holland, and Ancient Greece; while Charles I. Elton, M. P., contributes a paper of several pages length, on government. Mr. Gladstone furnishes the article on Homer, while Justin M'Carthy sketches the life of Gladstone himself. Other biographical papers are those on Gen. Grant, written by Gen. Wilson; on Goethe, by Professor Dowden; and those on Grote, Hooker, and Hegel; while Henry George contributes a sketch of himself. This encyclopædia is, in our opinion, the best for the mass of reading and thinking men. The "Britannica," of course, gives a much larger amount of information on the details of the subjects treated; but then its articles are often too elaborate for a busy man to read, yet not elaborate enough for thorough students of their respective subjects. Besides, Chambers's has now the advantage of being the latest work of the kind in the market. It is published in this country, in

agreement with Messrs. Chambers, by the J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

—We have received a small pamphlet entitled "An Open Letter to Hon. Edward M. Paxson, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania." It is written by Richard B. Westbrook, who describes himself as both a bachelor of law and a doctor of divinity, and is a criticism of certain remarks of Chief-Justice Paxson in an address before the law school of the University of Pennsylvania. In that address Judge Paxson had affirmed that the law of Sinai was "the first law of which we have any knowledge," and that Moses was "the greatest statesman and law-giver the world has ever produced." These statements Mr. Westbrook disputes, and gives in an argument of moderate length very good reasons for doing so. He has no difficulty in showing that Egypt and some other countries had elaborate systems of law long before the date assigned to Moses; and he also shows, on the grounds now universally accepted by biblical scholars, that the legislation attributed to Moses is, for the most part at least, of very much later date. Exceptions may be taken to some of his statements; but, on the whole, every one whose eyes are open to the results of historical investigation will agree that he has proved his case. The pamphlet is published for the author by the J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

—The Exchange Printing Company, 47 Broad Street, New York, has issued a book entitled "How to preserve Health," by Louis Barkan, M.D. The claim is made that this work is published with the purpose of bringing to public attention the results of the latest medical investigations. The objection to the author's plan that naturally occurs to one reading the pages is that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and that the author has gone too far in recommending certain courses of treatment for ailing humanity which shall be resorted to without consultation with a competent physician.

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