NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

The pleasant little romance entitled "Grace Barclay's Diary," purporting to be personal recollections of the American Revolution, taken from a private contemporary journal, has passed to a new edition, and is published by A. D. F. Randolph. Although inferior to "Margaret Smith's Journal," by Whittier, it met with a favorable reception upon its first publication seven years ago, and will now be read with interest for its quaint revolutionary pictures, and the dramatic costume in which it sets forth some of the most striking scenes of that eventful period of history. From the same publisher we have the second edition of "Pearls of Thought," selected from several choice old English writers, as Jeremy Taylor, Owen Feltham, Thomas Fuller, Sir Thomas Browne, and others, whose sententious wisdom can never lose its vital savor, or fail of a wholesome bracing influence on all who make it a part of their mental "daily food." It is issued in a neat pocket volume, and will prove an excellent companion on the road, or on a voyage, or while waiting for a dilatory man to keep an appointment.

Among the new novels of the week, are "Guy Hamilton," a story of our civil war, by Miss J. H. Matthews, published by the American News Company; and a second edition of "Ænone," a tale of slave life in Rome, by Leonard Kip. (Published by John Bradburn.)

"An Elementary Manual of Qualitative Chemical Analysis," by Prof. Maurice Perkins of Union College (published by John Wiley & Son), contains a selection from Professor Johnson's edition of Fresenius, adapted to practical use in the recitation room. It is intended to instruct the student in the methods of analyzing the more common inorganic compounds, according to a system the value of which has been tested by the experience of the author with his own classes.

"Darryll Gap; or, Whether It Paid," by Virginia F. Townsend, is a new novel illustrative of American social life, and especially of the aspects which it exhibited during the recent four years of warfare. (Published by W. F. Spencer.)

"The Complete Phonographer," by James E. Munson, gives a full exposition of the principles and methods of phonography, especially in its relation to short-hand reporting, for which that system justly claims a preëminence over every invention that has been devised for that purpose. Mr. Munson, from ample experience of its use in a responsible official capacity, is well qualified to explain its character, and to set forth its advantages, and the volume which he has now given to the public, for its clearness of statement and fullness of detail, will doubtless take the precedence of all previous manuals on the subject. Among other improvements introduced by the author is that of freeing the system from the anomalies and exceptions to general rules, which have hitherto been the source of infinite perplexity to the student, and which have to a large extent interfered with the utility of its practical applications. The system, moreover, has been treated as a complete, integral method, without the usual superfluous and burdensome distinction of "corresponding" and "reporting" styles. In the early part of the work, two sets of rules are given, one for the reader of phonographic outlines and the other for the writer, an arrangement which will be found of great convenience, especially in the commencement of the study. The volume is particularly adapted to the use of reporters, and cannot fail to prove of great service to that important branch of the profession of journalists. (Published by Robert H. Johnston & Co.)

A piquant contribution to the popular hygienic science which is now so much the order of the day is presented in a little tractate entitled "The Story of a Stomach," by a Reformed Dyspeptic, published by Fowler & Wells. In a vein of dry humor which seems to have become a second nature with the writer, he gravely relates his experience under the miseries of dyspepsia, and the dietetic methods by which he found relief. He maintains that the duties of the table are of not less sacred importance than those of other human relations, and that they should be embellished by all the appliances of art so as to be made a source of æsthetic and social delight, instead of ministering to merely sensual gratification. His remarks are founded on the principles of common sense, as well as on personal experience, and offer many valuable suggestions not only to the chronic invalid, to whom daily life is a daily torture, but to all who wish to find true enjoyment in existence.

"The Hudson, from the Wilderness to the Sea," by Benson J. Lossing, is a series of descriptive papers originally prepared for the London *Art Journal*, and in which they were published in the years 1860 and 1861, and now collected in a sumptuous ornamental volume, illustrated with numerous engravings from drawings by the author, and issued by Virtue & Yorston. It contains a variety of sketches of the principal objects of interest connected with the noble river which the author cherishes with such fond enthusiasm, numerous historical notices, biographical traits of eminent personages, and local and family traditions. The narrative derives a perpetual freshness from the personal recollections of Mr. Lossing, who has often traversed the ground in question with pencil in hand and journal in pocket, meeting with just enough adventure to give a spice to his descriptions. His book will prove an instructive companion to the tourist in the beautiful localities which he has so faithfully explored, and will serve to increase the pride of every loyal New-Yorker in his native State. The present edition has been thoroughly revised, and, as far as practicable, been brought down to the commencement of the present year.

"Transactions of the Indiana State Horticultural Society" is a volume of ninety pages, containing the experience of fruit-growers in Indiana. It treats of apples, pears, grapes, and all the small fruits, and of insects, soil, and climate, and has also an address by Dr. Warder. There is a biographical sketch of George M. Beeler, a remarkable young man, about 22 years old, who, perhaps, had no superior as a horticulturist in America. His death was caused by attempting to do two men's work in the nursery that they might go into the army. He was widely known and universally beloved. One of his last acts was to bequeath $1,000 to the Indiana State Horticultural Society, and a like sum to the North-Western Christian University, for the promotion of the sciences of botany and geology. The President of the Society is I. D. G. Nelson, Fort, Wayne.

"The Merchant of Berlin," translated from the German of B. Mühlbach, by Amory Coffin, M. D., is a historical work illustrative of the social and political character of Germany during the reign of Frederick the Great, published by D. Appleton & Co.

A new edition of the volume of sacred poetry entitled "Hymns of Faith and Hope," by Horatius Bonar, D. D., is published by Robert Carter & Brothers. They illustrate the evangelical views of the Christian belief in language of narrowy unction, and are equally attractive for their fervent spirit and their rich poetical imagery.

"Madonna Mary," by Mrs. Oliphant, forms the latest issue of Harper & Brother's "Library of Select Novels."

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

Edward H. Weed, announces "The Fables of Æsop with Illustrations by Henry L. Stephens, lithographed by Julius Bien." This work is to be published by subscription. The illustrations will consist of 56 full page drawings, and the size of the book is to be large quarto. Mr. Stephens is a clever draughtsman, and shows considerable skill in drawing animals. He appears to us to be somewhat indebted to Grandville, but he is no plagiarist, and if the remaining drawings shall prove to be as spirited and characteristic as the few specimens which have been sent us, the book will add to his reputation.

Fowler & Wells also publish an edition of Æsop's Fables, which they call "The People's Edition." It is intended rather for a useful than an ornamental book, and gives us the well-known stories in a compact but clearly printed shape. The illustrations are impressions from old and well-known wood-cuts, but they are so generally good that we are not sorry to see them again.

L. Prang & Co. send us a "A New Version of Old Mother Hubbard, by Ruth Chesterfield." It presents a glittering appearance enough, with its bright borders to each page, but the borders are not well enough designed to reward close examination. The small pictures at the side of each page have an incongruous look, the dull tint in which they are printed contrasting disagreeably with the varicolored borders. Mr. Prang has so much ingenuity, and has hitherto shown so much zeal in well-doing that we do not like to complain of a falling off in the character of his publications. The idea of this child's book is an excellent one, and Miss Chesterfield's "New Version" is simple and pretty, but the decorative and illustrative portions of the book are unsatisfactory, and there is no reason why they should be so. French, English, German picture-books for children are made so beautiful now-a-days that grown people are not ashamed to be caught admiring them, and we shall criticize and criticize until our publishers are forced into employing the best talent that can be found here, and making books that are beautiful really, and not merely superficially gay.

D. Appleton & Co., publish "Little Red Riding-Hood" and "Cinderella; or, The Little Glass Slipper," both books illustrated by Gustave Doré. The pictures in these books are very coarsely executed, and do no sort of justice to Doré's designs, of which they are mere travesties. We do not think it right to take Doré's designs at all; but, if the thing were to be done, it would have been well to do it creditably. A picture-book for a child ought to be in all respects as good as art and mechanism can make it, but the prevailing belief among publishers seems to be that anything is good enough for children. There was a day when a different notion prevailed.

Robert Carter & Co. send us "The Parable of the Prodigal Son, with Notes by James Hamilton, D. D., F. L. S., and Illustrations by Henry Courtenay Selous." We have no sympathy with the spirit of these notes. It seems to us at variance with the deep humanity that pervades the parable; but they were written for an audience that will no doubt read them with approval. We like Mr. Selous's designs quite as little as Mr. Hamilton's notes; both notes and designs obscure the story instead of making it clearer—if, indeed, it could be made clearer. They are executed in a style that makes the weakness of their drawing very evident: there is scarcely a detail in the whole series that is drawn with truth. Especially is this true of architectural details wherever they are introduced. The best illustration that we have found is the one where the elder brother is being told of the prodigal's return; this is well conceived. The book is beautifully printed, and bound with taste; it bears an Edinburgh imprint, and was perhaps bound abroad, as well.

The Presbyterian Publication Committee publish a series of five books for children with many pictures. The titles of the books are "Little Red Cloak," "Miss Muff and Little Hungry," "Jesus on Earth," "Ram Krishna Paut," and "Hindoo Life." They are intended for young children, but one of them at least, "Hindoo Life," will be interesting to young and old, though it is a mere sketch. We cannot praise the illustrations of these books; they are of the poorest, and would be omitted to the advantage of the children who will only have their tastes perverted by such daubs. The pictures in "Jesus on Earth" are the worst, and, if there be any best, those in "Miss Muff" are the best in the series.

LITERARY ITEMS.

The New-York Weekly announces the publication in its columns of a new tale by Mr. Edmund Kirke, whose previous writings have been received by the public with great favor, and who well deserves the popularity he enjoys as an author. Other writers, well known for their talents, are among the contributors to the present number of that periodical, among them the quaint and humorous "Doesticks," Alfred B. Street, and the poet Duganne.

The Agriculturist for December contains the usual variety of miscellany, and every topic suited to the season is treated. The amount of labor bestowed is very great. The feature of warning the public against shams and tricks ought to save the subscribers all the paper costs.

Dr. John J. Craven, the author of "Prison Life of Jeff. Davis," and the present Postmaster of Newark, proposes soon to publish a scientific work on the Crustacea and Mollusks of the Atlantic Coast.

"The Riverside Magazine for Young People" does not make its appearance as promptly as was intended, owing to the difficulties attending the printing in colors of the cover; but the first number will be issued early next week. Its contents show it to be governed by the season; it is, in fact, largely a Christmas and New Year's number. Mr. Abbott begins his William Gay series with an extemporaneous party. "Canonella" writes a Christmas carol which has an appropriate border by Howe. The author of "That Good Old Time" has a story for boys called "The Midnight Coast," illustrated by Winslow Homer. There are papers on New Year's customs, stereoscopic pictures, and Bruges, and the editor has a Christmas story, "The Neighbors," numerously illustrated by Stephens, who furnishes also the frontispiece, "The Three Wise Men of Gotham."

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