NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE VALUE OF LIFE. A REPLY TO MR. MALLOCK'S ESSAY "IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?" 12mo, pp. 253. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The essay of Mr. Mallock, to which a reply is attempted in the present volume, maintains that the beauty and charm of life are threatened by the decay of religious faith under the influence of positive science, and that the brightest hopes of man can be preserved only by the restoration of theology as taught in the Catholic Church. Mr. Mallock's arguments find a strenuous opponent in the author of this work, who contends, on the other hand, that the spirit of the so-called Positive Philosophy is essential to the highest development of humanity, and to the perfection and consummate enjoyment of human life. The ground taken by Mr. Mallock, according to his critic, is that modern science reduces the entire universe of matter to a mass of physical things. Man is included in this mass, and thus loses all the dignity and value which belonged to him as a spiritual and supernatural being. Hence his life becomes worthless, if Positivism is permitted to triumph. In destroying the influence of the Catholic Church the restraints are removed which for two thousand years have held in check the passions of paganism. Morality, art, personal dignity, therefore, demand a vigorous resistance to the pretensions of positive thought. But the author frankly calls in question Mr. Mallock's competence for the discussion of so grave a theme. The fervor of his rhetoric, and the piquancy of his eloquence, it is admitted, suggest a serious and profound, though sensitive thinker. But the illusion is dispelled by a more intimate acquaintance with the character of his mind. His incessant appeal to sentiment, his flippancy of expression, his drawing-room brilliancy of epigram, soon awaken suspicion. A closer inspection discovers many flaws in the enamel of the picture. He is found to be guilty of frequent inaccuracies of expression, of infelicities of metaphor, which betray false perceptions, and even obtuseness of imagination. Upon analyzing his thought, we learn that the superficial defects of his style extend to the deeper strata of his character. We cannot escape a suspicion of his insincerity. He seems to tamper with plain things in the interest of the cause which he has at heart. He reminds the reader of those secret tribunals of the holy office, of which the victims were kidnapped on false pretences, and carried blindfold into the presence of their judges. Mr. Mallock never forgets that it is his first duty to secure victory at all hazards, without troubling himself to understand the subject of which he treats. His critic perhaps goes too far in ascribing to him a systematic and avowed contempt for truth, but no one acquainted with his writings can fail to recognize his habitual attitude of warfare. The essence of Positivism, according to the writer, is to find the basis of belief in the realities of existence. The rejection of doctrine is a matter of secondary importance. The vital point is to establish a positive ground for thought, for action, and for life. In this respect, at the very outset, Mr. Mallock, the author affirms, grossly misrepresents the principle of Positivism. He makes it consist in the fact of denial. But Positivism, as it is justly alleged, is not a creed, or the rejection of a creed, but a method. Its characteristic feature is the study of the laws of phenomena, and not of their hidden causes. It proposes a systematic substitution of science for faith, and as far as possible, of the habit of demonstration for the habit of credulity. The practical aim of Positivism, as set forth by the author, is to bring the organic relation of human beings more and more vividly into the consciousness of mankind. It ascribes a large part of the miseries which now darken human life to the imperfect development or the systematic perversion of the sympathetic instincts. Hence it aims to develop such sentiments by every practicable means. It presents the true philosophy of the doctrine to those who are capable of speculation, and confides to them the task of its exposition and illustration. To the priests of Catholicism it opposes the philosophers. Over persons unable to comprehend ideas, it extends the influence of feelings and sentiments which are the products of ideas. It undertakes to apply its doctrines to every department of human life, not as an arbitrary unity, but an organic power. The great prize of life, or the object of living for each living being, according to the author, consists in the development of all faculties to the greatest extent compatible with the individual organization. The reason for failure and discontent is to be found in the fact that valued objects have not been attained, or that an imperfect analysis of the needs of human nature has overlooked the conditions for their attainment. It is impossible, however, the author discreetly adds, to imagine a world so good that no evil will remain to be combatted, or so evil that no good can be found to continue existence. "Perfection is not the attribute of a future state, be that a utopia or the millennium; it can only exist in moments, but in jewelled moments, which are strewn like diamonds throughout the 'depths of space and time.'" Mr. Mallock would assert that such a life was not worth possession. The more rational criticism, it is here maintained, is that this type of living is no seldom realized; that the regular evolution of life is so often thwarted; and that it is constantly darkened by the shadow of death. But these evils, as the author affirms, while they are deplored by the Positivist as a waste of energies, are destined to be spontaneously outgrown, or to be overcome by courageous effort guided by sound knowledge. The world, naturally imperfect, tends toward indefinite progress, and will gradually be mastered by the intellect of man, who is to be its occupant. It is a foolish assumption of Mr. Mallock, that the achievements of physical science are devoted exclusively to the attainment of physical comforts. On the contrary, the author insists that physical science in many ways transcends the material objects with which it is immediately concerned. In dissipating the mysteries which have enshrouded the material world, physical science has dispelled fear, and the slavish habits which fear engenders. To the degree to which it has procured relief from physical pain, physical science has quickened the sentiment of humanity. The personal happiness anticipated by Positivism is no vague conjecture of future possibilities, "no sounding brass and tinkling cymbal to be strummed in front of a curtain whose rising is always promised and constantly postponed; but the real music which it knows may be created by those who have already mastered the science of harmony." The picture of human society, as it may be developed under the influence of Positive ideas, is presented by the author in attractive colors. To what extent it may be realized under the intrinsic imperfections of man's inward nature and external conditions is a problem not satisfactorily discussed in this volume, and at present, no doubt, is incapable of a complete solution. The strength of the work is to be found in the vigorous exposure of Mr. Mallock's sophistries, rather than in its enthusiastic defence of the principles of Positivism. The value of scientific investigation, which is so ably advocated, may be sustained on other grounds than those adopted by the writer. Modern science finds a sufficient basis in the clearness of intellect, patience of research and the love of truth, with which it is pursued, and need not appeal to the authority of any philosophical system. The composition of the work betrays a greater power of reflection and keenness of criticism, than experience in the literary art, or facility and charm of expression. The style is often obscure and cumbersome, the sentences complicated and incomplete, and the illustrations destitute of nicety of choice and aptness of purpose. In elevation of tone, sincerity of conviction, and profoundness of thought, the volume appears to singular advantage, although it shows little respect for many popular beliefs, and makes no attempt to conciliate popular sympathy. The endeavor to impress the public mind with the principles of Comte will probably prove as fallacious as the hope of the sanguine Dr. Lyman Beecher, who thought that half an hour's conversation with Lord Byron on original sin would remove the doubts of the sceptical poet as to the truth of religion.

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. By T. R. LOUNSBURY. 12mo, pp. 355. Henry Holt & Co.

In this volume, Professor Lounsbury has presented a comprehensive view of the development of our mother tongue from its Anglo-Saxon cradle to its mature form in modern times. The subject is divided into two parts, namely, the general history of the language, including the social and political influences which have gradually moulded it into its present shape, and the history of its internal changes, so far as they relate to the variations which have taken place in the noun, the adjective, the pronoun, and the verb, caused by differences of inflection. As the result of his researches, the author maintains that the history of the English language, regarded merely from the grammatical point of view, is little else than the history of corruptions. There are but few forms now in use which, judged by a standard once existing, would not be condemned as gross barbarisms. Expressions which had their origin in ignorance are now universally accepted, and the employment of what was at first a blunder has often since become a test of propriety of speech. Still these changes, corruptions, have had no injurious effects upon the development of the language. The fashion of considering the present form of English as less pure and vigorous than it was in the days of Alfred has no foundation in truth. There is no question, Professor Lounsbury contends, as to the great superiority of the English of the nineteenth century over that of the ninth. It is absurd to speak of a form of language which has been the vehicle of one of the great literatures of the world as inferior to a form which has embodied in its literature little that is worth remembering or reading. Nor does the author cherish any doubt in regard to the stability of the current English of the present day. Of the important changes that have taken place since the ninth century, few of any significance are such as belong to the last three hundred years. The cultivated speech now in use is in an entirely different position from that occupied by the language of any previous period of history. It is no longer confined to a small class which a social or political change may subject to the influence of those who speak a foreign or corrupt idiom, but is the language of entire communities, which through the operation of manifold agencies is daily growing in universality and power. Professor Lounsbury has treated the subject with marked ability, presenting a great variety of curious information of practical value, and conducting the discussion with a certain severe common sense, without yielding to the seductions of fancy or the spirit of pedantry.

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MISS GIBBONS' English and French School for Girls, 111 West 44th-st., reopens Sept. 24.

MISS BALLOW'S English and French school for young ladies and little girls, No. 24 East 22d-st., will reopen on Thursday, September 25.

MISS REYNOLDS (for eight years a teacher in Miss Haines's School) will open an English and French School for girls at No. 6 West 47th-st., September 24.

MRS. JONSON and MISS JONES'
Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies,
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MISS BRACKETT and MISS ELIOT reopen their SCHOOL for GIRLS Thursday, October 2, 9 West 39th-st.

MISS S. COAN will open a private class for girls, Sept. 23, 36 W. 35th-st.; pupils in French may pursue one of the usual English branches in the French language.

MISS S. L. CHAPMAN, successor to the late Mrs. J. T. Benedict, will reopen the English and French Boarding and Day School for young ladies and children, No. 7 East 42d-st., on THURSDAY, September 25.

MADAME COLIN will form a private class for young ladies, to meet from 10 a. m. to 12 m., November to May. Apply by letter care Professor COLIN, 210 West 42d-st.

MISS DE BRUYN KOPS and Miss KEITH (formerly Mlle. M. d'Orémieulx and Miss Keith) will reopen their FRENCH BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL, 277 Madison-ave., corner 40th-st., September 25, 1879.

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MRS. GEO. C. ANTHON reopens her Parlor Class for Children at 251 West 50th-st., October 1. Classes in Modelling for Ladies.

MRS. GRIFFITTS will reopen her English, French and German Day School for Young Ladies and Children on Thursday, September 25, at No. 25 West 48th-st.

MRS. M. F. WALTON, 63 East 52d-st., will reopen her primary school and kindergarten, October 1, 1879. Kindergarten training class November 3.

MISSES MARSHALL'S SCHOOL for Young Ladies and Children, 230 West 38th-st., will reopen Monday, September 15.

MISS BOYER'S ENGLISH and FRENCH SCHOOL for Boarding and Day Pupils, No. 24 East 55th-st., reopens September 15. BOOKS FREE.

MRS. WILLIAMS'
English and French Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies and Children, 26 West 39th-st., reopens September 25.

MISS S. D. DOREMUS will reopen her SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES and CHILDREN OCTOBER 1, at 47 East 21st-st.
She will also receive into her family a limited number of pupils

MISS M. A. CLARK.
English and French school for young ladies and children, 107 East 35th-st., will reopen September 25; drawing and Latin included. Application by letter or personally as above.

MR. OTTO W. FUETTERER (Göttingen University, Hanover, Germany), will resume instruction September 22. German and the classics.
Particular attention paid to German pronunciation and elocution. Address 138 West 23d-st.

MRS. ROEBBELEN'S SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES and CHILDREN, No. 69 East 61st-st., will reopen September 24. Thorough methods in English and French. Department for boys under thirteen. Four young ladies will be received into the family.

MISS SPRING'S English and French School for Young Ladies and Children, 121 East 36th-st., near Park-ave., will reopen Thursday, Sept. 25; a few boarders taken; send for circulars; drawing, elocution, calisthenics and sewing included in the course.

MME. DA SILVA and MRS. BRADFORD'S (formerly Mrs. Ogden Hoffman's) English, French, and German Boarding and Day School for young ladies and children, No. 17 West 38th-st., New-York, will reopen September 29. Application may be made by letter or personally as above.

MISS COMSTOCK, 32 and 34 West 40th-st., facing Reservoir Park.
No. 32 West 40th-st.
ENGLISH, FRENCH and GERMAN Boarding and Day School. MONDAY, September 29.
No. 34 West 40th-st.
GERMAN and ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN. Gymnastics; Studio. Private class for young boys. Classical Department.

MADEMOISELLE DE JANON,
Successor and former Partner of the late Miss Haines, Respectfully informs her friends and the public that she will reopen her Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies and Children at No. 10 Gramercy-park, on Thursday, Sept. 25; Boys' Class and Kindergarten, Oct. 1.
Mlle. de Janon will be assisted by the same corps of teachers who have contributed to give the school its efficiency and value, and she earnestly solicits the continuance of the patronage so generously bestowed in past years.

SUBURBAN SEMINARY, Boston-ave. and 167th-st.; beautiful situation; thorough instruction; moderate terms. Address Rev. EDWIN JOHNSON.

SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN, 397 5th-ave., near 37th-st.—Reopens September 25. Miss RICHMOND can be seen at the rooms from 9 until 2, daily.

SCHOOL of LANGUAGES, 1,481 Broadway, reopens October 5.—French, German, Italian, Spanish by the natural method; Greek and Latin by Professor TIMAYENIS, Professor A. LAGANDE, Director of the French Department of this school, refers to Professor F. BOCHER (Harvard University), Baron SHISKIN (Russian Ambassador), and the Rev. J. H. VINCENT, D.D., &c.; circulars on application.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL.
BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL
FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN.
STUDIO—ENGLISH AND GERMAN KINDERGARTEN.
SEPARATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUNG BOYS.
Nos. 21 and 23 West 32d-st., between Broadway and 5th-ave., New-York.
Autumn Term begins October 1, 1879.
Rev. THEODORE IRVING, LL. D., Rector.

THE MISSES MASON will reopen their English and French school for young ladies and children on Wednesday, October 1, at 308 Lexington-ave.

Instruction.

For Both Sexes—City.

THE NORMAL CLASS of the Free Kindergarten of the Society for Ethical Culture will be opened October 1. Applications should be made at once to Miss FANNY SCHWEDLER, 155 West 34th-st.

Art Schools—New-York City.

MRS. LOUISA B. CULVER
Will receive pupils in painting (landscape, flowers, still life china and decoration), at her studio, "The Bella," No. 48 East 26th-st., corner 4th-ave., beginning October 1.
References: Mr. D. Huntington, Mr. William Hart, Mr. James M. Hart, Mr. A. F. Bellows.

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BOYS and YOUNG MEN privately fitted for college. Conditioned or rejected candidates coached. Summer of Winter. Stockbridge, Mass. F. HOFFMANN.

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I. T. TALBOT, M. D., 66 Marlborough-st., Boston.

COLLEGIATE and COMMERCIAL INSTITUTE, New Haven, Conn., General Russell's School. Preparatory to college, scientific schools or business. Thorough physical training by military drilling, gymnastics, &c. Ample opportunity for athletic games, rowing, &c.

DR. PINNEO'S FAMILY SCHOOL for eight boys, Greenwich, Conn., reopens September 15. Refers to the Rev. Drs. Hastings, Prentiss, Irenæus Prime and W. C. Prime, esq., and others.

DR. FITCH'S Family School for Boys at Norwalk, Conn.; a real home, combining thorough instruction in all branches of an English and classical education with parental care. For circulars and references address the Principal, Dr. J. C. FITCH.

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BENJAMIN & ALLEN, Principals.

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