NEW PUBLICATIONS.

DR. HOLMES'S MEDICAL ESSAYS.

MEDICAL ESSAYS. 1842–1882. By OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES. 12mo. pp. xl., 445. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The charm of Dr. Holmes's manner, which is not merely an affair of literary style but the expression of a genial temperament, is hardly less conspicuous in his serious professional essays than in the lighter and freer papers by which he has so often captivated the "general reader." This pervading person seems indeed to be pretty often in the doctor's thoughts. Grave professional opinions are adroitly accommodated to his tastes and capacity. Dr. Holmes detests pedantry; and when he can express his meaning in plain English he is sure not to fall into scientific affectations. "I hope we shall make everything as plain and simple to you as we can," he says in one of his lectures. "I know there are professors in this country who 'ligate' arteries. Other surgeons only tie them, and it stops the bleeding just as well." Often he makes a quasi-humorous metaphor do duty for a technical explanation. He is speaking for instance of catalytic action, or that mysterious chemical phenomenon in which an inert substance by its mere presence causes union to take place between two other substances: "It has played the part of the unwedded priest," he remarks, "who marries a pair without taking a fee or having any further relation with the parties"; and later he refers to the action of catalysis in the process of digestion "as being one of those peculiar reactions provoked by an element which stands outside and looks on without compromising itself." The effect of this method is to make the addresses and essays interesting, intelligible and easily remembered.

Of the nine papers included in the present volume four have already appeared in book form. "Homœopathy and its Kindred Delusions," compounded of two lectures delivered over forty years ago, is an exceedingly animated assault upon a school of medicine toward which Dr. Holmes has always cherished very strong feelings—far too strong to allow much play of the pungent wit which such a theme might have been expected to provoke. Still more serious is the tone of the paper on "The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever," in which the most alarming conclusions are stated with an impressiveness sometimes rising to eloquence. The position of Dr. Holmes, "that puerperal fever is sometimes carried from patient to patient by medical assistants"—in other words, that the physician sometimes, through inexcusable carelessness, becomes a walking pestilence, carrying death under the most distressing conditions into the chamber to which he is summoned,—has been hotly controverted, but since he first presented this array of testimony and argument in 1843 he has "abundant evidence that it has made many practitioners more cautious in their relations with puerperal females." In reprinting it he replies effectively and with some proper sharpness to certain publications on the other side. The address on "Currents and Counter-Currents in Medical Science" (1860) was also the occasion of a good deal of criticism when it was fresh; but Dr. Holmes's vigorous attack upon the abuses of overmedication, and his general rule that "the presumption is always against the use of noxious agents in disease," seem far less revolutionary to-day than they did twenty years ago. Perhaps the chief cause of offence in the essay was not the censure of an obsolescent school of practice, but the indirect demonstration afforded by its survey of old and recent methods how very far medicine—that is, the administration of remedies—still is from an exact science. In the lecture on "Border Lines of Knowledge in some Provinces of Medical Science," he returned the next year to the same subject. "Those articles of the Materia Medica which had nothing but loathsomeness to recommend them have been gradually dropped, and are not like to obtain any general favor again with civilized communities. The next culprits to be tried are the poisons. I have never been in the least sceptical as to the utility of some of them, when properly employed. Though I believe that at present, taking the world at large, and leaving out a few powerful agents of such immense value that they rank next to food in importance, the poisons prescribed for disease do more hurt than good. I have no doubt, and never professed to have any, that they do *much good* in prudent and instructed hands. But I am very willing to confess a great jealousy of many agents, and I could almost wish to see the Materia Medica so classed as to call suspicion upon certain ones among them." Mercury, lead, silver, antimony, iodine, are among the "alien elements" which he particularly mentions in connection with the principle that the "presumption is always against unwholesome food." Much as we have gained, we have not yet shaken off the idea that poison is the natural food of disease. "The disgrace of medicine has been that colossal system of self-deception in obedience to which mines have been emptied of their cankering minerals, the vegetable kingdom robbed of all its noxious growths, the entrails of animals taxed for their impurities, the poison-bags of reptiles drained of their venom, and all the inconceivable abominations thus obtained thrust down the throats of human beings suffering from some fault of organization, nourishment, or vital stimulation." And the doctor "cannot help believing that medical *curative* treatment will by and by resolve itself in great measure into modifications of the good, swallowed and breathed, and of the natural stimuli, and that less will be expected from specifics and noxious disturbing agents, either alien or assimilable." This, however, is only one of the less prominent topics of the essay. Its main subject is a survey of some of the most striking instances in which the progress of science has brought us to great discoveries, and yet has left a secret beyond which baffles all our persistence and ingenuity. In connection with this topic Dr. Holmes makes his admirable profession of faith in an omnipotent Creator. "These logical analyses by which we fence out the ignorance we cannot reclaim and fix the limits of our knowledge, all lead us up to the inspiration of the Almighty, which gives understanding to the world's great teachers. To fear science or knowledge, lest it disturb our old beliefs, is to fear the influx of the Divine wisdom into the souls of our fellow-men; for what is science but the piecemeal *revelation*,—uncovering,—of the plan of creation by the agency of those chosen prophets of nature whom God has illuminated from the central light of truth for that single purpose?"

The five essays which now make their first appearance in a collected volume are of less permanent importance than the preceding four, but we need hardly say that they are richly worthy of preservation. "Scholastic and Bedside Teaching" and "The Young Practitioner" are addresses of advice to students, abounding in sensible counsels and sprightly illustrations, and appealing perhaps almost as strongly to the lay reader as to those for whom they were specially written. "The Medical Profession in Massachusetts" is historical in character, and with much other curious antiquarian lore it contains an amusing account of a MS. of Cotton Mather's on medicine, which (fortunately, Dr. Holmes thinks) has never been printed. The address on "Medical Libraries" speaks forcibly of the importance of periodical literature, and makes an earnest plea for indexes. The chapter of reminiscences of "Some of My Early Teachers" is the farewell address which Dr. Holmes delivered at Harvard on retiring from his professorship last November—a delightful sketch of distinguished physicians both in America and in Paris, with frank criticisms of their methods and peculiarities. It startles us for a moment to think of Dr. Holmes as the pupil of some of these remote veterans; but then surely he is not an old man who writes such cheerful and elegant pages.

A MODERN ROMANCE.

DR. CLAUDIUS. A True Story. By F. MARION CRAWFORD, author of "Mr. Isaacs." 12mo. pp. 353. Macmillan & Co.

In these arid days of the realistic novel such a story as "Dr. Claudius" brings with it the exhilaration of a pleasant surprise. It has plenty of faults, but it has one great virtue—it is a romance. Over all its mistakes of matter and manner shines the glamour of ideality, the light that never was on sea or land. Its hero is not a "smart," sordid fellow, neither is he a cynical, finical prig. He is a stalwart Scandinavian, with the spirit of a Viking, a philosopher, a man of the world who is not ashamed to be unworldly, a lover who is not ashamed to reverence his love. If he be a little too perfect in character he is at least an agreeable contrast to the hero of the new school who is too perfect merely in clothes and manners. Dr. Claudius is at any rate a man and not what Mr. Carlyle has called a popinjay.

It is the old story of the pine and the palm. The golden-bearded Northman loves the beautiful dark woman whose imagination is unstirred, whose heart is untouched, and who has not lost her dreams in the habits of society. Their surroundings are as refined as even Mr. James could have conceived: an English Duke serves as confidential friend, the villain is an American millionaire, and there is a generally pleasing atmosphere of lace, bouquets, lady's-maids and valets. The upholstery is, in short, in the best modern taste—which may be praise or not—but it has not been suffered to smother the poetic romance of the pine and the palm.

Mr. Crawford has drawn his characters with skill and with self-restraint, which an occasional bit of "gush" would seem to show is carefully studied. His Wall street villain is sufficiently amiable and conventional to suit the time and yet villainous enough to make the comedy march. Of course it is by way of separating the hero and heroine. "It was an unfair plan, he meditated, bad from the root up, and he knew it; but he did not hesitate on that account. Silas B. Barker, jr., had not enough conscience to make it an object for him to deceive himself as to the morality of his actions. A year or two since he would perhaps have defended himself in a general way by saying it was arrogance for a man to set himself up as any better than his surroundings. But between a year or two ago and this September evening there was set a gulf, represented by a couple of transactions in the 'street' over which there was small joy in heaven and very little on earth." Mr. Crawford's New-York readers will concede that it is not a far cry to Mr. Silas B. Barker. The Duke is perhaps at first too much like the ordinary Duke of the new school, but he develops in the course of the narrative some excellent qualities, which prove him to be rather an extraordinary Duke after all, with a good deal of the fine fellow about him. Most of the minor characters are sketched in with a quick and adroit touch. This portrait, whether embellished or not, may perhaps be recognizable:

"The Duke, as he had told his sister, had invited his friend to dine. They all sat together waiting his arrival. Punctual to the moment, the door opened, and Mr. Horace Bellingham beamed upon the assembled party. Ay, but he was a sight to do good to the souls of the hungry and thirsty, and of the poor, and in misery!

He requires description, not that any pen can describe him, but no one ever saw him who did not immediately wish to try. He was short, decidedly; but a broad deep chest and long powerful arms had given him many an advantage over taller adversaries in strange barbarous lands. He was perfectly bald, but that must have been because Nature had not the heart to cover such a wonderful cranium from the admiring gaze of phrenologists. A sweeping mustache and a long imperial of snowy white sat well on the ruddy tan of his complexion, and gave him an air at once martial and diplomatic. He was dressed in the most perfect of London clothes, and there were superb diamonds in his shirt, while a priceless sapphire sparkled in a plain gold setting on his broad, brown hand. He is the only man of his time who can wear precious stones without vulgarity. He moves like a king and has the air of the old school in every gesture. His dark eyes are brighter than his diamonds, and his look, for all his white beard and seventy years, is as young and fresh as the rose he wears in his coat.

There are some people who turn gray, but who do not grow hoary, whose faces are furrowed but not wrinkled, whose hearts are sore wounded in many places, but are not dead. There is a youth that bids defiance to age, and there is a kindness which laughs at the world's rough usage. These are they who have returned good for evil, not having learned it as a lesson of righteousness, but because they have no evil in them to return upon others. Whom the gods love die young, and they die young because they never grow old. The poet, who at the verge of death said this, said it of, and to, this very man.

The Duke went through the introductions, first to the Countess, then to Miss Skeat, then to his sister, and last of all to Claudius, who had been intently watching the newcomer. Mr. Bellingham paused before Claudius, and looked up in a way peculiarly his own, without raising his head. He had of course heard in New-York of the strange fortune that had befallen Claudius on the death of the well-known Mr. Linnstraud, and now he stood a minute trying to take the measure of the individual before him, not in the least overcome by the physical proportions of the outer man, but struck by the intellectual face and forehead that surmounted such a tower of strength.

"I was in Heidelberg myself—a student," said he, his face lighting up with coming reminiscences, "but that was long before you were born, fifty years ago."

"I fancy it is little changed," said Claudius.

"I would like to go back to the Badischer Hof. I remember once——" but he broke off short and turned to the Countess, and sat down beside her. He knew all her people in America and her husband's people abroad. He immediately began telling her a story of her grandmother, with a *verve* and graphic spirit that enchanted Margaret, for she liked clever old men. Besides, he is not old. It is not so long since—well, it is a long story. However, in less than one minute the assembled guests were listening to the old-time tale of Margaret's ancestress, and the waiter paused breathless on the threshold to hear the end, before he announced dinner.

There are two very different ways of dining—dining with Mr. Bellingham, and dining without him. But for those who have dined with him, all other prandial arrangements are an empty sham. At least so Claudius said to Margaret in an aside, when they got to the fruit. And Margaret, who looked wonderfully beautiful with a single band of gold through her black hair, laughed her assent, and said it was hopeless for the men of this day to enter the lists against the veterans of the *ancien régime*. And Claudius was not in the least hurt by the comparison, odious though it would have been to Mr. Barker, had he been there. Claudius had plenty of vanity, but it did not assume the personal type. Some people call a certain form of vanity pride. It is the same thing on a larger scale. Vanity is to pride what nervousness is to nerve, what morbid conscience is to manly goodness, what the letter of the law is to the spirit.

Mr. Crawford's story has not much plot, and the mystery which surrounds his hero is not sufficiently explained. His style, while it is natural and easy, has no special graces. He has, however, a pretty art in writing conversation—his characters talk with animation, sometimes with a lightsome sparkle, and never drearily. His foot-notes explaining divers American colloquialisms are scarcely necessary even for his English readers and would much better have been omitted. The worst fault of the book as a literary performance is that before mentioned tendency toward over-enthusiasm which manifests itself now and then in a somewhat gushing paragraph, phrase or ejaculation. But it spite of its faults it is an interesting and attractive story and is in some directions a positive advance upon "Mr. Isaacs."

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New-York, May 15, 1883.

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Cabin passage, $60 to $100, according to accommodations. Second Cabin and Steerage as above.

Anchor Line Drafts issued at lowest rates are paid free of charge in England, Scotland and Ireland.

For passage, Cabin Plans, Book of Tours, &c., apply to HENDERSON BROTHERS, 7 Bowling Green.

AMERICANS going abroad and desiring precious stones, choice jewelry, bronzes, or the latest novelties, are invited to visit our Paris store, No. 37 Avenue de l'Opera, adjoining Hotel Bellevue. HOWARD & COMPANY, of Fifth Avenue, New-York.

BORDEAUX LINE. New and direct line to the South of France. NEW-YORK AND BORDEAUX DIRECT. CHATEAU LEOVILLE, 4,000 tons.....Tues., May 29. CHATEAU LAFITE, 4,000 tons.....Wed., June 27. From "Prentice's Stores" (near Wall-st. Ferry), Brooklyn. Travellers for France, Spain and Italy, Pyrenees, Paris, Nice, &c., will save time and expense by taking this line. Cabin (including wine), $80; Steerage, $25. For passage apply to F. LE BOULANGER, 46 Beaver-st.

CUNARD LINE. NOTICE—"LANE ROUTE." FROM NEW-YORK TO LIVERPOOL VIA QUEENSTOWN. FROM PIER NO. 40 NORTH RIVER.

*ROTHNIA.....Wednesday, May 30, 11:30 a. m.
PAVONIA.....Wednesday, June 6, 6 a. m.
SERVIA.....Wednesday, June 13, 11 a. m.
*SCYTHIA.....Wednesday, June 20, 4 p. m.

Steamers marked * do not carry steerage. Cabin passage, $80 and $100. Steerage tickets to and from all parts of Europe at very low rates. Freight and passage office, No. 4 Bowling Green. VERNON H. BROWN & CO., Agents.

GUION LINE. UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL. Leaving Pier 38, N. R., foot of King-st.

ARIZONA.....Tuesday, May 29, 10 a. m.
NEVADA.....Saturday, June 2, 3 p. m.
ABYSSINIA.....Tuesday, June 5, 5 p. m.
WYOMING.....Tuesday, June 12, 10:30 a. m.
ALASKA.....Tuesday, June 19, 3:30 p. m.

These steamers are built of iron, in water-tight compartments, and are furnished with every requisite to make the passage across the Atlantic both safe and agreeable, having bath-room, smoking-room, drawing-room, piano and library, also experienced surgeon, stewardess and caterer on each steamer. The staterooms are all upper deck, thus insuring those greatest of all luxuries at sea, perfect ventilation and light.

Cabin passage (according to stateroom), $60, $80 and $100; intermediate, $40. Steerage at low rates.

OFFICE, NO. 29 BROADWAY. WILLIAMS & GUION.

NATIONAL LINE.—From Pier 39, N. R. FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENSTOWN. THE QUEEN, June 2, 5:30 p. m. | ERIN, June 9, 8:30 a. m. FOR LONDON DIRECT. ERIN.....June 2, 3 p. m. | QUEEN, June 13, 12 m.

Cabin $55 to $70; outward tickets $25; prepaid steerage ticket, $20. F. W. J. HURST, Manager, 69 and 73 Broadway, N. Y.

Ocean Steamers.

GENERAL TRANSATLANTIC COMPANY. Between New-York and Havre. Company's pier (new), No. 42 North River, foot of Morton-st. Travellers by this line avoid both transit by English railway and the discomfort of crossing the Channel in a small boat. Special train leaving the company's dock at Havre direct for Paris on arrival of steamers. Baggage checked at New-York through to Paris.

FRANCE, Perier d'Hauterive.....Wednesday, May 30, noon.
LABRADOR, Collier.....Wednesday, June 6, 3 p. m.
ST. GERMAIN, Bonneau.....Wednesday, June 13, noon.

Checks payable at sight, in amounts to suit, on the Banque Transatlantique of Paris. For freight and passage apply to LOUIS DE BEBIAN, Agent, No. 6 Bowling Green.

GERMAN AND U. S. MAIL STEAMERS. NORTH GERMAN LLOYD. STEAMSHIP LINE BETWEEN NEW-YORK, SOUTHAMPTON AND BREMEN.

WERRA.....Wed., May 30 | MAIN.....Wednesday, June 6
ODER.....Saturday, June 2 | RHEIN.....Sat., June 9

RATES OF PASSAGE from NEW-YORK to SOUTHAMPTON, HAVRE or BREMEN.

FIRST CABIN.....$100 | SECOND CABIN.....$60
STEERAGE, $30.

Return tickets at reduced rates. Prepaid Steerage Certificates, $24. For freight apply on board, Pier between Second and Third-sts., Hoboken, N. J. OELRICHS & CO., 2 Bowling Green.

INMAN ROYAL MAIL LINE STEAMERS. FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.

CITY OF BERLIN.....THURSDAY, June 7, 6 a. m.
CITY OF PARIS.....Saturday, June 9, 9 a. m.
CITY OF CHESTER.....SATURDAY, June 23, 8:30 a. m.
CITY OF RICHMOND.....THURSDAY, June 28, 11 a. m.
CITY OF BERLIN.....SATURDAY, July 7, 5:30 a. m.

From Pier 41, North River, foot of Leroy-st. CABIN PASSAGE, $80 and $100. Intermediate, $40. STEERAGE, $28. Prepaid $21. For passage, &c., apply to the INMAN STEAMSHIP CO. Limited, 31 and 33 Broadway, N. Y. Philadelphia Office, No. 105 South 4th-st.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S LINE FOR CALIFORNIA, SANDWICH ISLANDS, JAPAN, CHINA, NEW-ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA and MEXICO. From New-York, pier foot Canal-st., N. R. For San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama, ACAPULCO sails Saturday, June 2, noon. Connecting for Central and South America and Mexico. From San Francisco, 1st and Brannan sts., for Japan and China. CITY OF TOKIO sails Thursday, May 31, 2 p. m. Excursion tickets between San Francisco and Yokohama at special rates. For HONOLULU, NEW-ZEALAND and AUSTRALIA, CITY OF NEW-YORK sails Wednesday, June 6, 2 p. m. or on arrival of London mails at San Francisco. For freight, passage and general information, apply at Company's Office on the pier foot Canal-st., North River. H. J. BULLAY, Superintendent.

RED STAR LINE. For Antwerp and Paris. Sailing from New-York and Antwerp every Saturday.

ULYSSLAND.....Saturday, May 26, 5 a. m.
PENNLAND.....Saturday, June 2, 3 p. m.

Saloons, state-rooms, smoking and bath-rooms amidships. First cabin, $60 to $80; excursion, $110 to $160. Second cabin, $35; excursion, $100. Steerage, $26 prepaid, $20. PETER WRIGHT & SONS, General Agents, 55 Broadway.

ROYAL MAIL TO THE NETHERLANDS. Steamers leave foot of Sixth-st., Jersey City. FOR ROTTERDAM. SS. ROTTERDAM.....Wednesday, May 30, 12:30 p. m. FOR AMSTERDAM. SS. ZAANDAM.....Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 a. m. 1st Cabin, $80. Steerage, $26, prepaid. $20. H. GAZAN, General Agent, 27 South William-st. FUNCH, EDYE & CO., 27 S. William-st., Freight Agts. L. W. MORRIS, 50 B'way, Gen. Pass. Agt.

UNITED STATES AND GERMAN MAIL STEAMERS.—Hamburg American Packet Company's Line for PLYMOUTH (London), CHERBOURG (Paris), and HAMBURG. Saturday steamers Hamburg direct. WIELAND.....Thurs., May 31 | BOHEMIA.....Sat., June 9. SILESIA.....Thurs., June 7 | HAMBURG.....Thurs., June 14. Rates (to Paris extra): First Cabin, $100. Second Cabin, $60. Steerage, $30. First Cabin on Saturday Steamers, $85 and $70. Excursion rates greatly reduced. Send for "Tourist's Gazette." KUNHARDT & CO., Gen. Agts., No. 61 Broadway, N. Y. C. B. RICHARD & CO., Gen. Pass. Agts., 61 B'way, N. Y.

WHITE STAR LINE. UNITED STATES AND ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.

NOTICE.—The steamers of this line take the Lane Route recommended by Lieutenant Maury, U. S. N., on both the outward and homeward voyages.

ADRIATIC, Capt. Jennings.....Thursday, May 31, 12:30 p. m.
BRITANNIC, Capt. Perry.....Saturday, June 9, 8:30 a. m.
REPUBLIC, Capt. Irving.....Thursday, June 14, noon.
BALTIC, Capt. Parsell.....Saturday, June 16, 3 p. m.
GERMANIC, Capt. Cosgrave.....Thursday, June 21, 4 p. m.

FROM THE WHITE STAR DOCK, FOOT OF WEST 10TH-ST.

These steamers are uniform in size and unsurpassed in appointments. The Saloons, Staterooms, Smoking and Bathrooms are placed amidships, where the noise and motion are least felt, affording a degree of comfort hitherto unattainable at sea.

RATES.—Saloon, $80 and $100. Return tickets on favorable terms. Steerage from the Old Country, $21 from New-York, $28.

These steamers carry neither