HESTER OGLE, THE SECOND MRS. SHERIDAN.

(From the portrait by Hoppner.)

d there Sheridan was ideally qualified to ase them. He was not ignoble. On the con-ary, Mr. Sichel has no difficulty in proving at he had, instead, a certain delicacy of soul. t he was mundane to his finger tips, and thing is more characteristic of him than that ode in his Parliamentary life in which he pears as the friend of the Prince of Wales d Mrs. Fitzherbert, trying to make the best an essentially ambiguous situation. Never as there a more interesting public performer. is easy to understand how he was worshipped. loved liberty and steered his political course a man of honor. He had ideas. It is curi-s to note that especially during his earlier rs in politics he was known for "solidity" as ll as for "sprightliness." But, first and last was an orator and a genius, the worker of spell, a type of sheer charm. It is in that aracter that Mr. Sichel paints him to the r purpose. We follow the story of his ex-its in the theatre and in the House with recitation of the various achievements re-ded, but we are the more grateful to Mr. hel when he is telling us of Sheridan's in-ence and generosity, his conversation and his ners, his debonair relations with all man-r of interesting people in the great world or Bohemia, his ups and downs of fortune, his marriages and his pathetic end. All this ngs back to us a singular, wonderfully gifted d appealing personality. We value him, no t for the parts he played, but we love him himself.

THE "COPPER BASHER"

Parable Drawn from Modern London Life.

REBORN MEN. A Clinic in Regeneration. A footnote in narrative to Professor William James's "The Varieties of Religious Experience." By Harold Begbie. 12mo, pp. 280. The Fleming H. Revell Company.

The "copper basher," to whom Mr. Begbie es one of his diverting chapters, was a of human weasel, named Danny, whose ing and fighting proclivities were so ed that the London police made a practice oking him up whenever they could. As y Danny had learned to let a mate h his cap from his head and fling it g the boxes displayed outside a grocer's fruiterer's shop. While the mate ran away rounded fear of Danny the hopeful no-n, apologizing to the irate shopman, would e his cap with an egg or an apple or a d of sausages inside it and rush off to t his accomplice. The only excuse for ing the maturer activities of this sea-d sinner is in the fact that Danny of a e turned aside from his chosen profes-on giving up the habit which had won the name of the "copper basher," the t namely, of clubbing any undesirable po-n from behind, with a piece of iron.

change absolute and entire came over From being cruel he became as tender woman. From being a cunning thief, selfish, he became scrupulously honest most considerate for others. If one asks planation of the miracle by which the of conduct were reversed for Danny and the "dipsomaniacs" and jailbirds whose formations Mr. Begbie so carefully de-, the answer is that these experiences, stood the test of some years, illustrate ms by which, according to Professor Will-James, "a self hitherto divided and con-ly wrong, inferior and unhappy, becomes and consciously right, superior and in consequence of its firmer hold upon ese realities." By his recital of authentic ies Mr. Begbie would like to rouse from slumber the dreamy people who you can make the world a little heaven without calling in some power by which ually bad person may be changed into ally good person. Conversion is a fact psychologist; the results of conversion cts for the student of social wellbeing.

Our fashionable support of the Salvation Army, Mr. Begbie thinks, is largely inspired by the success of what is called its social work, yet that work is as nothing, considered in real consequences for society, to the Salvationists' detergent spiritual activities which have made the foulest clean. Besides commanding the interest of the psychologist, these narratives are bound to rekindle the ardor of sturdy believers who are working, through personal religion, to restore the human delinquent to his lost Eden.

NEW FRENCH BOOKS

The Sudden, Untimely Death of Jean Moreas.

Paris, April 9.

"Le Maréchal d'Ancre et Léonora Galigai," by the late F. Hayem, which Plon publishes, is the posthumous work of one of the most promising representatives of the younger school of historians, whose premature death, a few months ago, was a serious loss to French letters.

ELIZABETH LINLEY, THE FIRST MRS. SHERIDAN, AS ST. CECILIA.

(From the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds.)

There is no more dramatic episode in history than the rise to power and subsequent downfall of the Italian Concini and his wife, the favorites of Marie de Medici, so typical as it was of the strange influence which Italian adventurers have always exercised on the destinies of the French nation. M. Hayem has destroyed the hitherto generally accepted explanation of Concini's favor at court—namely, that he was the lover of the Queen. His wife, who was the Queen's favorite waiting maid, was also her foster sister, and it was to this fact that the fortune of the Concinis was really due. M. Hayem has shown that the murder of the Maréchal d'Ancre was planned on the very day of Henri IV's death, and, though it was no doubt to the advantage of the country that the two scheming and unscrupulous Italians should have been got rid of, to condemn Léonora as a witch was clearly unfair.

Fasquelle has issued the revised text of "Chantecler," in which M. Rostand has cut out many of the redundancies which have hindered the success of the play. In spite of its many and too obvious faults, "Chantecler" marks the highest point yet achieved by his ebullient genius. A new edition of the famous "Souvenirs" of Mme. de Caylus has just been published by M. A. Fayard, with an introduction by Comte d'Haussonville. Mme. de Caylus, who was one of the most brilliant French women of letters of the eighteenth century, left behind her a wondrous storehouse of anecdotes, mainly concerning the court of Louis XIV. "Traineurs de Sabre," a series of short stories by Fernand Dacre, published by Daragon, will interest all who are curious as to the inner life of the French army and the workings of its disciplinary system. On the whole it tends to denounce universal military service, many of the glaring evils of which it vividly exposes.

The death of Jean Moréas, the Greek-French poet, is not only a real loss to French literature, but removes from the Paris boulevard one of its most picturesque and lovable figures. Moréas died from the after effects of an apoplectic seizure, brought on, it is to be feared, by alcoholic excess and his passion for sitting up all night in the Latin Quarter cafés discussing literary questions with his numerous admirers. He had just been naturalized a Frenchman, for, though he ranked very high as a French poet, he did not leave Athens, where he was born, till he was nineteen years old. He was also on the point of presenting his candidature to the French Academy, where he would certainly have been elected. His most important work was a five-act tragedy in verse, "Iphigénie," and it is another sad feature of his premature death that this poem, after slumbering for many years in the manager's safe at the Théâtre Français, is just about to be produced there. Jean Moréas rarely visited his native country, and wrote no poetry in Greek, but was none the less the greatest and perhaps the only real poet that Greece has produced since the glorious days of her antiquity.

C. I. B.

SOME CURIOUS DERIVATIONS.

From The Pall Mall Gazette.

M. Michael Bréal, in an article published last week, gives the derivations of some French words in common use that will come as a surprise to many. What, for instance, is the derivation of the verb "aimer," which is so frequently in the mouths of all the Latin races, and is, according to the famous gibe, equally applied by them to a cutlet and the mistress of one's heart? According to the learned Academician, it is derived from an obscure Greek word, "amma," or mother, because a maternal affection is the highest form of the feeling it denotes, and is, in fact, the origin of all the rest. Moreover, it is one of the oldest words in the language, being, on the same authority, the survival of the baby's first cry, and therefore one of the remains of the tongue which, as M. Bréal says, mothers and nurslings teach each other. When he comes to "chic," however, M. Bréal has a greater surprise in store for us. After the magisterial pronouncement that this word—almost as much used in the lighter English literature as in the French—is not yet sanctioned by the Académie, he reveals to us that it was originally made in Germany, and, what is worse, is of military origin. It is, in fact, one of the innumerable derivatives of the form *geschicken*, a root that in itself has almost as many significations as Mark Twain attributed to *schlag* and *zug*, including that which appears in "*geschickt*=bien disposé, adroit, habile." In support of this he quotes the lines from Schiller's "Wallenstein":

Das Tempo macht ihn, der Sinn und Schick,
Der Begriff, die Bedeutung, der feine Blick.

Yet the word does not come into France directly from the German, but through the Flemish, where *schick* has the meaning of "arrangement, disposition." Perhaps this last word is here used in the sense given to it by the chronicler who recorded that Queen Elizabeth danced "high and disposedly"; but surely it is a great disillusion to find that the word which to us represents all that is most distinctively French comes in the long run from Germany. M. Michael Bréal's opinion on such points is perhaps the best in Europe, and one doubts whether without it any one would have swallowed this most amazing etymology. By the side of it, the relation of Palestine soup to *girasole* looks almost natural.

In "The Black Bear," a volume announced by the Scribners, Mr. W. H. Wright tells a quaint story of Ben, a bear cub of much intelligence and many charming ways. In addition to the memoir of Ben there is a general study of the black bear, with whom the author has had, for years, an intimate acquaintance as hunter and naturalist.

LITERARY NOTES.

It is announced that "The Century" will in future give much space to articles dealing with important religious subjects in which there is wide interest.

"American Problems from the Point of View of a Psychologist"—such is the title of Professor Hugo Münsterberg's new book, now on the press of Moffat, Yard & Co. These problems concern nerves, prohibition, books, markets, ghosts, women, vocations, scholarship, and so on.

A verbatim reprint of the first edition of Robert Browning's "Men and Women" is coming from the Oxford University Press. There will be issued at the same time a collection of Shelley's prose productions taken from the Bodleian manuscripts. This collection will include many fragments hitherto unpublished.

Two large mosaics have been placed on the wall of a free library building at Southwark, in London, on the spot past which Chaucer's pilgrims rode on their way to Canterbury. These mosaics—which portray the pilgrims—are to be unveiled soon, with appropriate ceremonial. Southwark is a region of mean streets and poor people, yet the surprising statement is made that the three Chaucer volumes in the library are always in demand.

Mr. Theodore M. Davis, the American explorer of Egyptian tombs, is bringing out a book under the title of "The Tomb of Queen Tiyi." Accompanying Mr. Davis's text are a "Note," by Professor G. Elliot Smith; a "Sketch of the Life of Queen Tiyi," by Professor Gaston Maspero; a chapter on "The Excavations of 1907," by Edward Ayrton, and a catalogue of the objects discovered, by George Daresay.

The Bardon Papers, which cover the period of the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, from May, 1572, to the date of her execution, have just been published for private circulation. "We have long given up all hope," says "The Saturday Review," of London, "of ever having the dark places in Mary's career completely cleared to the light. Documents have long since proved quite useless. Those who believe Mary to be innocent of Bothwell's murder or of direct complicity in the Babington conspiracy to murder Elizabeth have made up their minds that damning evidence is forgery if written, or falsehood wrung by torture if attested. No one of those who have not seen these papers in the original will be moved a jot now that they may read them in print. Partisans who wish to be educated in the subject matter of their case cannot, however, afford to neglect them."

The volume on "The Mississippi River," upon which Mr. Julius Chambers has been engaged, will be brought out by the Putnams in the early autumn. The book gives an exhaustive account of the remarkably picturesque history of the great river.

The first three volumes of the "Tree Book Series," projected by the John Lane Company, are coming from the press. They are devoted respectively to the holly, the beech and the gingko trees and deal with them from both the scientific and the literary points of view. The book about the gingko appeals with special force to those engaged in the beautification of village and city streets, since that tree is valuable for its fine growth and its freedom from disease.

Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, the American wife of the Irish M. P. and editor of "M. A. P.," is about to bring out a volume of reminiscences which she calls "I Myself." It is said to be full of descriptions and anecdotes of celebrities.

"Arms and the Maid" is the title of the new novel by Raphael Sabatini, which the Putnams are about to publish. It is an exciting story of the days of Monmouth and his royal uncle and executioner.

It is known that the library of the late Robert Hoe is one of the most valuable and interesting collections extant. The mass of treasures it contains is to be estimated only by a study of the fourteen large octavo volumes which contain a catalogue of a portion of its items. Collectors are wondering when these things are to be dispersed and whether the place of sale will be London or New York.

Mr. Rossetti's daughter, Mme. Angeli, has been writing a book on Byron and Shelley and their friends in Italy. We are told that it is based in part on materials hitherto unpublished. It will be published in the autumn.

MRS. ABINGTON, THE ORIGINAL IMPERSONATOR OF LADY TEAZLE.

(From the portrait by Cosway.)