

SOME NEW BOOKS.

The Colonial Era.

The Messrs. Scribner have projected an American History Series whose five volumes will constitute a continuous narrative from the discovery of the New World to the end of the reconstruction period.

The chapter treating of Virginia from the settlement of Jamestown up to 1688 comes to us particularly well done. Every important event is registered, and its significance is distinctly indicated.

The second chapter which Dr. Fisher devotes to Virginia, in which he carries on the history of the colony from the year 1688 to 1789, is relatively short. For a long time there was a kind of political apathy in the colony, due mainly to the fact that the quit rents and other regular resources of the King's revenue were generally sufficient to carry on the Government without the need of taxation of any kind.

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Dr. Fisher's delineation of the state of society in the several colonies constitute the most attractive features of his book. By the side of the pictures already reproduced may be placed the description of the various states of society in New York toward the close of the colonial epoch.

We can trace in the seventeenth century the germs of a slave code, although, as we have seen, there was no actual slavery in Virginia in 1670. Under the English law the child of a bond woman by a free man was free, but in 1662 the Virginia Assembly enacted that children should follow the condition of the mother.

For a realistic description of the Virginia community in 1681 Dr. Fisher has recourse to Lord Culpepper, who occupied the office of governor at that period of the colony's history.

presentation by hiring the ministers from year to year, the parsons were made subservient to the will of those who employed them. There were good men among them, but their character on the whole was not such as to hold in small esteem, and the condition of the medical profession was quite low.

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Pastors, who belonged to a class of devout Lutherans denominated Pietists and acted in part as the agent of a Frankfort land company. Owing mainly to the fact that the Pietists had exerted a powerful influence in numbers than any other colony had grown except Massachusetts. In 1685 there were already upwards of 7,000 inhabitants, somewhat more than one-half of whom were of English extraction.

The account of New England society in the colonial period is an excellent quotation from the diary of John Adams, a receipt given to a Virginian for making a New England in Virginia. The secret lay, it seems, in the adoption of town meetings, training days, town schools, and ministers.

As regards religion, the strongest sect were the Quakers, and the English Presbyterians; but although Sabbath laws were strictly enforced, religious freedom continued to be conceded to all. The small degree of control exercised by the clergy was a point of contrast both with Virginia and New England.

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justice among their numerous tenants. The members of the Assembly were not content with the medium of expression, Franklin wrote in a simple, engaging style, and his essays on scientific subjects were models of clearness and precision.

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It is well known that one feature of the elaborate system of workmen's insurance, established by law in Germany through the influence of Prince Bismarck, is the creation of a fund for the support of poor persons who are too old to work.

Information as to the amount of old-age pauperism in England is singularly defective. It is not till the year 1880 that we have any reliable statistics, and these are almost exclusively on what is known as "Mr. Burt's Return," which gives the number of old people, including lunatics and vagrants, in receipt of outdoor or indoor relief on Aug. 1, 1880.

It is clear then that the amount of old-age pauperism, though not so great as has been sometimes asserted, is very serious. Mr. Booth also finds it very easy to show that under the existing English Poor Law regulations the old are not treated as they should be; indoor relief lacks humanity, and outdoor encourages improvidence.

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maintenance of a destitute person actually costs. He proposes to give this amount of five shillings to all who do not come on the rates. He maintains that no other plan of selection is possible except at the sacrifice of independence. To select the poor is to pauperize, to select the deserving is to patronize; the author holds that a great deal of good can be accomplished by the State's giving the sum specified to all those who can live without appealing to the parish.

The sum proposed to provide five shillings a week for all old people, is large, but not more than could easily be raised if the object were deemed worth attaining. There is, however, as we have said, considerable difference of opinion regarding the results to be expected from such an expenditure.

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Useful Articles of the Fireplace that Have Become Ornamental. Andirons play an important part in the current rage for antiques, and the manufacturers are turning out by cheap processes an enormous quantity of cheap androgons on early patterns. The cheapest are of cast iron, but they please nobody with taste and knowledge, except when they are massive and of artistic design.

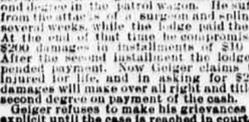
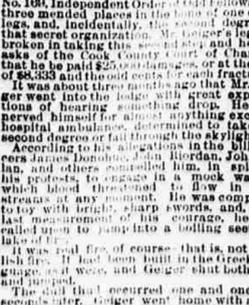
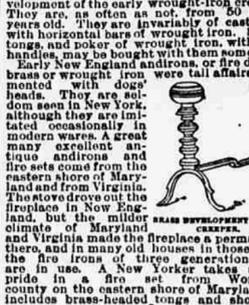
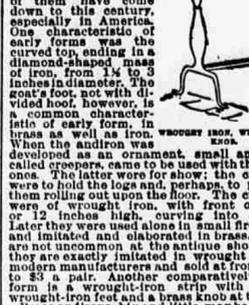
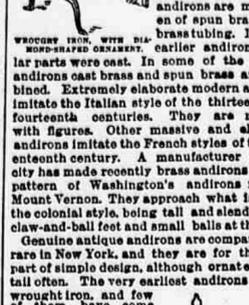
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