NEW BOOKS.

Brief Reviews of Important and Interesting New Publications.

No man of our day, with the possible exception of Robert Louis Stevenson, has impressed a pleasant personality upon everything he wrote more strongly than has Philip Gilbert Hamerton. In "The Intellectual Life" and "Human Intercourse;" in his many volumes upon art and outdoor life, and, most of all, in the posthumously published autobiography, the man's fine and sympathetic nature is so clearly and yet so unobtrusively revealed that to read him is to make a true and trusted friend. In "The Quest of Happiness" (Roberts Bros.), which is now published in the unfinished state in which it was left at the time of his death, we have the final word of this eminently sane and practical philosopher. "Happiness," he says, in the opening sentence, "as the word will be understood in the present volume, means that degree of satisfaction with our existence which, in spite of minor vexations and disappointments, makes us willing to go on living as we are now living, without any important change." From this point, which lies about midway between the illusory complacency of the optimist and the absolute negation of the pessimist, the author proceeded to work out his theory that such happiness as is to be had in life follows naturally upon the due exercise of our faculties, alternating with their sufficient rest, and that the truest philosophy lies in first recognizing the impossibility of attaining the ideal, and then setting about the task of contenting one's self with the real. The fact that the demonstration was not carried to its conclusion perhaps adds to rather than detracts from the value of the work, since no completed essay upon the incomplete and elusive science of human happiness could ever be wholly satisfactory. The reasoning is clear and coherent, and, as in all that Hamerton wrote, there is that wholesome, stimulative influence that breeds courage and self-reliance, and that is an excellent antidote to the poison disseminated by those dismal pessimists, who, like some noisy grumblers bidden to a feast, are not alone dissatisfied with the arrangements, but would fain make all the world as miserable as themselves.

A new and thoroughly revised and enlarged edition of Dr. Henry Van Dyke's "The Poetry of Tennyson" (Scribners) is published under the sub-title of "A Book of Essays in Vital Criticism." In these essays, written at intervals and under various conditions, Dr. Van Dyke has not attempted to give a complete scientific and technical analysis of the poems, but has sought to come into touch with their innermost spirit, and in a series of careful and studious appreciations to reach and reveal their inward and vital beauty. A useful arrangement of the poems is made in the last chapter, not as an exact classification, but as a broad grouping to assist the student in comprehending them as a whole. "If," he says in conclusion, "this age of ours, with its renaissance of art and its catholic admiration of the beautiful in all forms, classic and romantic, with its love of science and its joy in mastering the secrets of Nature, with its deep passion of humanity protesting against social wrongs and dreaming of social regeneration, with its introspective spirit searching the springs of character and action, with its profound interest in the problems of the unseen and its reaction from the theology of the head to the religion of the heart—if this age of ours is a great age, then Tennyson is a great poet; for he is the clearest, sweetest, strongest voice of the century."

Another volume by the same author, and uniform in size with the Tennyson Essays, is "Little Rivers. A Book of Essays in Profitable Idleness." (Scribners.) The angler and the lover of delicate lyrics will remember these opening verses of the poem which Dr. Van Dyke republishes as the prelude to his delightful chapters:

When tulips bloom in Union square,
And timid breaths of vernal air
Go wandering down the dusty town
Like children lost in Vanity Fair;

When every long, unlovely row
Of westward houses stands aglow,
And leads the eyes toward sunset skies
Beyond the hills where green trees grow;

Then weary seems the street parade
And weary books and weary trade;
I'm only wishing to go a-fishing;
For this the month of May was made.

Dr. Van Dyke, parson, poet, and lover of the gentle art, is a rare guide to follow in his rambles. He knows his rivers—from the Restigouche and the Racquette to the brown Scotch burns and the streams of Austria and the Tyrol—and in these pages there is something of the charm that Stevenson possessed the secret of, and here and there are touches of a sly humor not unworthy of old Izaak Walton himself. This is a book that brings a man close to Nature's heart; a book to be carried in the pocket and dipped into in spare moments, and to the reader who, like Montaigne, loves that which is pleasant and easy and amusing, it may be commended in the quaint old seventeenth century English of "The Experienc'd Angler," quoted on the title page: "And suppose he take nothing, yet he enjoyeth a delightfull walk by pleasant Rivers, in sweet Pastures, amongst odoriferous flowers, which gratifie his Senses, and delight his Mind; which Contentments induce many (who affect not *Angling*) to choose those places of pleasure for their summer Recreation and Health."

A wandering ghost with a skull branded with the mark of an arrow, a skeleton bursting from its rotting robes, and torrents of black blood that spurt forth at intervals and dye the shrinking grass, are a few of the "properties" used by Mr. Robert Chambers in his collection of stories in "The Mystery of Choice" (Appletons). The title is an appropriate one. Thus, after telling the story of the murder of the Red Admiral by the Purple Emperor, and describing the finding of the body under the hearthstone, "a crushed mass of bleeding human flesh, from the midst of which stared a cheap glass eye," Mr. Chambers remarks, in an aside to the reader, "I might tell you a pleasanter story if I chose." But he doesn't. On the contrary, he spins him a wild and wonderful yarn of a wandering Breton priest, who, after being comfortably dead a hundred years or so, comes back and haunts Mr. Darrell, an inoffensive American tourist, and, after frightening him almost out of his wits, vanishes in the ooze of a slimy bog, grinning horribly and spurting black blood to the last. "I wish," says Mr. Chambers in another aside at the conclusion of this story, "I wisn I had time to tell you how Lys outgrew superstitions, for she never knew the truth about the affair, and she never will know, since she has promised not to read this book. I wish I might tell you about the King and his coronation, and how the coronation robe fitted. I wish I were able to write how Yvonne and Herbert Stuart rode to a boar hunt in Quimperlé, and how the hounds raced the quarry right through the town, overturning three gendarmes, the notary, and an old woman. But I am becoming garrulous." The reader, on the other hand, will wish that Mr. Chambers had cleared up many of the mysterious points in these tales. They are all fascinating and well worth reading, but here and there it is doubtful if the author himself knows just what he means.

Yet another contribution to the never-ending controversy as to the origin of the Arthurian Legends comes in the form of two large and beautifully printed volumes, bearing the title "King Arthur and the Table Round—Tales Chiefly After the Old French of Crestien of Troyes," with an account of Arthurian Romance, and notes by William Wells Newell. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) Mr. Newell ranges himself on the side of those who dispute the Celtic origin of the legends, and he considers that to Crestien of Troyes more than all other influences the character of extant Arthurian story is to be ascribed. In support of his contentions, to some of which the weight of the best modern criticism is opposed, it is impossible to advance anything in the way of proof, and his arguments resolve themselves into a series of expressions of personal opinion such as these: "The Briton has played but a small part in the construction of stories professedly relating to the history of his race; these are sketches of foreign artists, who used colors supplied by their own environment. Not only in style and decoration, but also in idea and outline, Arthurian romance is a French construction. For cardinal merits the tales are not indebted to Cymric character; on the contrary, their virtues are nearly the opposite of qualities which would have found favor in British antiquity. It is the Frenchman whom the stories represent; to Britain is due little more than a scene and opportunity." Many readers will be more interested in the legends themselves than in the learned and lengthy discussions of the schoolmen, and will be content to leave the latter to dispute as to whether Arthur was a real king who ever ruled in Britain or elsewhere, or a mere solar myth, as a French critic has suggested. To them these prose romances ascribed to Crestien will always appeal, by reason of their literary quality and their fund of originality and invention, and the fine conception of valor, courtesy and love embodied in their heroes of the Round Table.

Once upon a time—it seems a very long while ago—the gentleman known to readers as F. Anstey wrote "Vice Versa," a genuinely amusing book. Since then he seems to have become a very serious person. The strain of producing a weekly supply of "copy" of the kind looked for by the readers of London *Punch* might be expected to tell in time upon the most light-hearted of jesters, and his latest book, "Baboo Harry Bungsho Jabberjee, B. A." (Appletons), may stand as a sad example of that saddest of all earthy things, machine-made humor. Mr. Jabberjee is a Bengali Baboo, who studies law at one of the English Inns of Court, and, in his spare moments, writes his impressions of things in general in the pages of London *Punch*. As a satirical comment upon England's system of education as applied to her Indian subjects a page or two of the book might not be uninteresting, but its humor is of that heavy kind of which a little goes a very long way. From one who has shown that he can do so much better this sort of thing is disappointing. "We proceeded thither upon the giddy summit of a Royal Oak omnibus, and on arriving in the vestibulum were peremptorily commanded to undergo total abstinence from our umbrellas." The baboo in real life is a much more amusing person than this imaginary specimen of Mr. Anstey's. Mr. Bernard Partridge's illustrations are excellent.

"Elementary Jane" (Putnams) was a good young girl who sang in the London "Alls." The story of her love and her misfortunes is told in some 300 pages that contain a too liberal proportion of cockney dialect to suit most readers. Otherwise Mr. Pryce's book is interesting and well written. Unlike many novels that treat of stage life, it seems to be designed for the "young person."

A useful edition of Carlyle's "Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History" has been prepared, with notes and introduction, by Mrs. Annie Russell Marble. (Macmillans.) The notes are designed to explain for the student the many allusions to mythology, philosophy, history, &c., and the quotations from recondite sources found in this collection of essays, of which Thoreau said: "All his works might well enough be embraced under the title of one of them, a good specimen brick, 'On Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History.' Of this department he is Chief Professor in the World's University, and even leaves Plutarch behind." The volume contains a short bibliography and indices to the text and to the notes and introduction.

We have also received:

"Reminiscences of an old Westchester Homestead." Charles Pryer. (Putnams.)

"Some Colonial Homesteads." Marion Harland. (Putnams.)

"The Lord of Lowedale. A Story of the Sixteenth Century." R. O. Chetwode. (Estes & Lauriat.)

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"Fabius the Roman; or, How the Church Became Militant." Rev. E. Fitch Burr, D. D., LL. D. (Baker & Taylor Company.)

"The Daughter of a Hundred Millions." Virginia Niles Leeds. (F. Tennyson Neely.)

"The Outlaws of the Marches." Lord Ernest Hamilton. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

"The Clash of Arms." John Bloundelle Burton. (Appletons.)

"The Echo-Maid and Other Stories." Alicia Aspinwall. (E. P. Dutton.)

"The Potter's Wheel." Ian Maclaren. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

"The Vice of Fools." H. C. Chatfield-Taylor. (H. S. Stone & Co.)

"Stuart and Bamboo." Mrs. S. P. McLean Greene. (Harpers.)

"Undine." De La Motte Fouqué. Illustrations by Rosie M. M. Pitman. (Macmillans.)

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"Nature Study in Elementary Schools." A manual for teachers. Mrs. Lucy L. W. Wilson, Ph. D. (Macmillans.)

"Her Place in the World." Amanda M. Douglas. (Lee & Shepard.)

"The District School as It Was." By one who went to it. Edited by Clifton Johnson. (Lee & Shepard.)

"Teaching as a Business." Four addresses by C. W. Bardeen (author).

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DIED.

BROWN.—Suddenly, on Tuesday, Nov. 9, Henry H. Brown of 2087 5th av.

Funeral will take place from All Saints' Church on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, where a solemn requiem mass will be celebrated. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Kindly omit flowers.

GARDINER.—On Thursday morning, Nov. 11, at his residence, "The Alpine," James G., son of the late Col. Alexander Gardiner and Mary Cooper, in the 88th year of his age.

Funeral services will take place at Brick Church, 5th av. and 37th st., on Saturday, 13th inst., at 2 o'clock P. M. It is kindly requested that no flowers be sent.

HURLBUT.—Suddenly, at his residence, 11 West 20th st., Henry A. Hurlbut, in his 59th year.

Funeral services will be held on Monday morning, 15th inst., at 10 o'clock, at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, corner of 55th st. Interment in the family vault at Woodlawn.

RANDALL.—At his residence, the Amidon, 83d st. and Boulevard, Charles Knower Randall, son of the late John Randall.

Funeral services at All Angels' Church, West End av. and 81st st., Saturday, Nov. 13, at 1:30 P. M.

STARR.—At Santa Barbara, Cal., on the 5th inst., Caroline M. Starr, beloved wife of Theodore B. Starr of this city.

Funeral services will be held at her late residence, 3 West 53d st., on Monday, Nov. 15, at 10 o'clock A. M. Interment at Ridgefield, Conn. Special train leaves Grand Central Station at 11:45 A. M.

TIDBALL.—At Bronxville, N. Y., Friday morning, Nov. 12, Alfred D. Tidball, son of Gen. J. C. Tidball, United States Army, aged 25 years.

Washington papers please notice.

TROY.—On Thursday, Nov. 11, at her residence, 17 East 130th st., Anna Troy, widow of T. J. Troy.

Funeral from All Saints' Church, Madison av. and 129th st., on Monday, Nov. 15, at 10 A. M. Interment in Calvary.

THE KENSICO CEMETERY.—Private station, Harlem Railroad; 43 minutes' ride from the Grand Central Depot. Office, 16 East 42d st.

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ASSOCIATION HALL, corner 23d st. and 4th av.—Special addresses by the Rev. J. Manton Smith of Spurgeon's Tabernacle, London, England. Sunday afternoon, 3:45 o'clock. Every week-day evening at 9 o'clock in the Parlors. The above meetings are for young men exclusively. Every afternoon at 4 o'clock in the Parlors, to which women as well as men are invited. Special music at each service.

A.—A.—A.—METROPOLITAN TEMPLE, 7th av. and 14th st.—Divine service and sermon, 11 and 8. Preacher, Dr. Cadman. Music by vested choir. Temple conference, 3:45. The New Patriotism. Soloists, William S. Pharsey and John Weiss. Friday questions. Concert to-night.

AMERICAN MISSION TO THE JEWS, 424 Grand st.—Hermann Warszawiak preaches to-day (Saturday) at 3 P. M.; subject, "The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus." All welcome. Services on Sunday and Friday evenings at 8 o'clock.

AT SOUTH CHURCH, Madison av. and 38th st.—A Rev. RODERICK TERRY, D. D., pastor; service of the Holy Communion at 11 A. M.; preaching at 4 P. M.

COMMANDER BALLINGTON BOOTH speaks at Cooper Union, 8 P. M., Sunday. Subject: "Inflammable Christians." He will introduce Lieut.-Col. Robert C. Gardner, late of California, who takes command of the Greater New York Regiment.

CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE.—Five Points Mission, Dr. Sanford, pastor, 10:30, 7:30; Sunday school, 2:30; illustrated lantern talk at night. All welcome.

DR. CROWE will preach in the Church of the Eternal Hope, 81st st., west of Columbus av., at 11 A. M. Subject: "How to Read the Bible." Miss Chapman will sing.

FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, corner 55th st., Rev. John Hall, D. D., pastor. Services, Sunday, Nov. 14, 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

GRACE CHURCH. Broadway, corner 10th st.

8 A. M.—Holy Communion.
9 A. M.—Morning prayer and address.
5 P. M.—Later evensong and sermon.
All seats free.

MADISON AV. BAPTIST CHURCH, corner 31st st., Rev. Henry M. Sanders, D. D., pastor.—Services to-morrow at 11 A. M. and 4:30 P. M. The pastor will preach at both services. Sunday school, 9:30 A. M. Chapel service Wednesday, 8 P. M.

REV. THOMAS DIXON, JR., preaches Academy of Music Sunday morning. Prelude, Cuba.

REV. FATHER SARGENT, O. H. C., will preach in St. Chrysostom's Chapel, 7th av. cor. 39th st., on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE.—Sunday, Nov. 14, 1897, at 11:15 A. M., lecture by Prof. Felix Adler, at Carnegie Music Hall, corner 57th st. and 7th av.; subject, "What Has Religion Done for Civilization?" All interested are invited.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL, 5th av. and 43d st.—To-morrow, 11 A. M., Dr. Joseph Silverman lectures on "Is God a Metaphor or a Reality?" All are invited.

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