

SOME NEW BOOKS.

Dante. The beauty of reading Dante is that one is communing with one of the greatest minds of all times. Just how useful it is to read Dante through an annotated edition is an open question. Dante, How to Know Him, by ALFRED M. BOGARDUS (Hoboken, N. J., 1916), is a partly of commentary and partly of explanation. The difficulty is that the commentary is so "throughout" the selected text, so that the reader who is patient enough to go through the book has, after all, not read Dante but only a Dante diluted and drenched in the milk of Professor Bogardus of Edgewater University.

United States against Mormonism and at the action of the courts, all of which would assuredly be unjustifiable. It was merely a matter of religious belief. Some serious matters in Mormon history he passes over in silence; his defenses of them would probably be to compare the violence of the world to Mormons with that done by them.

times. Kublai Khan made three invasions of Japan, and the description of the Divine Tempest which gave Japan one of its signal victories is a delightful reading for the war enamored mind. Kublai Khan was finally routed from Japan, and after his death his standing style, by distinguishing its processes and methods and taking note of its failures and triumphs can we know literature, for style means the whole of expression, and literature is expression. Subtract style and only what is ancillary to literature remains. He points out that the history of style is a curious one, for style with the Greeks and Romans, from whom we derive so greatly, was largely a matter of public speaking, whereas to-day style must address the eye rather than the ear.

correspondent to command, "In the dark backward and abysm of time," "the clock capped towers," "the multitudinous seas incarnadine," etc. Mr. Rannie truly states that the study of style is really the study of literature, and that the history of literature is the history of style. Another inquiry recommended to the critic is whether an author's words are rare or colloquial. Aristotle held that an author should have a goodly number of unusual words, but he was doubtless thinking chiefly of poetry. After Shakespeare and Swinburne, who have the widest vocabularies in English literature, probably Keats, Shelley, Milton, Coleridge and Keats, Francis Thompson offers the richest store of rarity. Mr. Rannie, however, suggests Chaucer and Spenser for unusual vocabulary.

goes far toward making the music and distinction of his prose. "In poetry and prose alike pomp often requires polysyllabic ability. The romance leans to the use of oligosyllabic words. The author gives 'Macbeth,' Act II, scene 2, as a notable instance of this. Another inquiry recommended to the critic is whether an author's words are rare or colloquial. Aristotle held that an author should have a goodly number of unusual words, but he was doubtless thinking chiefly of poetry. After Shakespeare and Swinburne, who have the widest vocabularies in English literature, probably Keats, Shelley, Milton, Coleridge and Keats, Francis Thompson offers the richest store of rarity. Mr. Rannie, however, suggests Chaucer and Spenser for unusual vocabulary.

swarm to be subject to similar diversions of the Leonids, the so-called meteor showers. The Leonids travel round the sun about once in thirty-three years. The track of the sun spot swarms grazes the track of the Leonids: Why should the end of the one track be so close to the other? Of course we can say that there is no reason why it should be, but it would seem more satisfactory if we could mention a reason why it should; and a very good reason seems to me to be that the sun spot swarm was broken off from the other near the same spot in its journey round the sun. It does not always meet the Leonids there, but about every 25 1/2 years it does, and the Leonids hit off the same storm for being in the same place, and when this happens we find that there is a new crop of sun spots.

POEMS WORTH READING. The Weeb. On tides of rose incense and musk The world of dew is wading down the dusk. The glow worm lights it as it passes Biggus o'er the dewy grasses. It goes o'er the lily cup Till it has drunk the nectar up. It sips the attar of the phlox, The honey of the hollyhocks. And everywhere, a sacred trust, It bears the procreant pollen dust.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. An Englishman in my presence used the word 'preventative' and I bet him \$5 that there was no such word in the English language. IGNORANT. You lose your bet. Although the dictionary concedes that preventative is 'irregularly and improperly formed' (Century) and a 'spurious variant' (Standard) it has plenty of respectable authority for its use in place of the sounder word, preventive.