## Editor's Sable.

#### LIGHTER LITERATURE.

BREWSTER. St. Martin's Summer. By An-nie H. M. Brewster. Boston : Ticknor & Fields. 16mo., pp. 442.

Music, Poetry, Painting, Natural Scenery and Passages of Old World History and Personal Narrative, are the topics of this volume, handled in connection with incidents of a foreign residence, and treated in a somewhat rapt, æsthetic tone. Most persons overhearing such conversations as are here recorded between two or three women, would find it difficult to believe them quite improvised; the language is generally too elegant, the ideas too refined and remote from the ordinary course of 'thought, and the criticisms too elaborate. Yet there is a delicate beauty in the treatment of the topics, which betrays an artistic nature, and which is sometimes extremely fascinating, but which sometimes verges toward æsthetie trifling. One wonders if such a dreamy life, without real care of living interest in the stirring world, in some elegant Italian villa, is the ideal cherished by the cultivated women of New England. As for religion, no doubt these over-refined natures regarded themselves as having outgrown the stage of development to which that is necessary. It scarcely appears in any shape in these pages.

ASPHODEL. Boston : Ticknor & Fields. 16mo., pp. 224.

Another book which suggests gravest doubts as to the healthfulness of the culture in vogue in the more refined circles of New England society. There is, indeed, not the slightest trace of impurity in the religion is cordial, though brief. But there mended to all classes of readers. is so much dreaming in the regions of mere taste ; such a half-listless surrender to mere currents of feeling, as if they were fate. itself; such a terrible tragedy allowed to develope from which a grain of common sense, a spark of decision of character, would have saved all parties; and then, nobody is much blamed for the heart breakings and the deaths-we struggle to escape from an atmosphere with such an appearance of purity yet so bewildering. Is such, we ask again, the ideal of a noble and blameless manhood in New England? It is far from a sound and wholesome one.

HONOR MAY. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 16mo., pp. 404.

A love story runs through this book of musical criticism, much as a tiny brook through a meadow. The principal character is represented as endeavoring to be cold to all ordinary interests and insensible to human passion, from devotion to her art; but nature asserts herself, and so the tale gets its crisis and its tragic interest. For the rest it is quiet, domestic, at times commonplace, but pure and truthful in tone.

KINGSLEY. Leighton Court, a Country House Story. By Henry Kingsley, au-thor of "Ravenshoe." Boston : Ticknor & Fields. 16mo., pp. 190.

sensible of a defect in Richard's view of plants require. Robert's duty toward the person whom he Tilling may be done with the hoe and

nobler nature stirred.

pp. 444.

A tale of London low life; with none of its absolutely coarsest features, and with many traits to relieve the sombre hues of want, intemperance, dishonesty, and crime, which it graphically portrays. The story is rendered deeply interesting without extravagance or unnaturalness. It is a remarkable combination of simplicity and power. Rascality is not made romantically attractive, and a true and profound impression is conveyed as to the condition of the London poor, and the necessity of laboring only on ordinary vegetable crops, but also of animal life by domestication or breeding; for their amelioration. Especially is the on berry bushes, border flowers, and even changes which nature resists and is sure to danger to the innocent and virtuous poor window pot plants; while, if poured or counteract, it the changed animal is thrown of contamination, and of being involved, sprinkled over roses, cabbages, etc., they through no fault of their own, in the chievous pranks of the green fly and catercrimes and punishment of their vicious villar neighbors, well represented.

Evangelical religion finds no open, positive recognition in these pages; the dying old woman's complacent self-examination proceeds entirely on legal grounds, on which, doubtless, the writer wishes us to understand he justifies her Otherwise the spirit of the narrative is pure and story, and the recognition of the value of healthful, and the book may be safely com-

### BOOKS BECEIVED.

CHAFF. The Person of Christ; The Mira-cle of History. With a Reply to Strauss and Renan, and a Collection of Testimonies SCHAFF. of Unbelievers. By Philip Schaff, D.D. New York: Chas. Scribner & Co. 18mo., pp. 375. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Phila.

KIRKLAND. Patriotic Eloquence: Being Selections from One Hundred Years of National Literature. Compiled for the Use of Schools in Reading and Speaking. By Mrs. C. M. Kirkland. New York: Obse Seribuse & Co. 12mo. pp. 334 Chas. Scribner & Co. 12mo., pp. 334. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Phila.

FISHER. Life of Benjamin Silliman, M.D., LL.D., late Professor of Chemistry, Mine-ralogy, and Geology in Yale College. Chiefly from his Manuscript Reminiscences, Diaries, and Correspondence. By Geo. P. Fisher, Professor in Yale College. Vols. I. and II., 12mo., pp. 407 and 408. New York: Chas. Scribner & Co. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Phila.

TEACHERS' JEWELS. A Message from the Border Land to Sabbath-school Teachers and Scholars. Phila. : J. C. Garrigues & Co.

Rural Economy. HORTICULTURAL HINTS. My Asparagus Bed.-One year ago this spring I planted an asparagus bed. I

thy to attain the crowning place in the the roots and press the earth firmly around the vertebrate fish as early as the radiate

story. Perhaps the writer's purpose is to them. The stems of the lower leaves should story. Perhaps the writer's purpose is to be covered, so that they may sprout, if cut protest against the excessive and unreflect- by worms or frost. It is said that the ing proscription practised by society in sweet potato will bear transplanting with such cases. The careful reader will be less moisture in the ground than most other

has wronged, just before leaving for Call-the roots. Do not cut the vines, or injure Record from the first deposition of animal or cover them with the cultivator, but lift remains to the last; and that we not only feeling his selfishness rebuked and his them carefully and place them on the ridges find in the first, as above shown, all the the convolvulace or bind-weed family-Ru-

ral New Yorker.

### WHAT TO DO WITH SOAP SUDS.

Although generally deemed only fit to run off into the common sewer in the easiest and most expeditious manner possible, they are nevertheless highly beneficial vegetable science, depends upon induction alone for feeders, as well as useful preventatives. its demonstrations, the Darwinian theory Hence they should never be wasted, espe-has absolutely no proof, so far as the incal cially by parties having gardens, as their culably long record of geology is concerned. application to the ground, whether in win- It is thrown back upon the flimsy induction ter or summer. will show beneficially not of facts connected with the partial changes will prevent, or at least mitigate, the mis-

# Scienkikic.

### AGASSIZ AND DARWIN'S THEORY.

We have lately noticed two important works of Agassiz : his "Geological Sketches," a series of popular articles originally published in the Atlantic Monthly; and his "Structure of Animal Life," six lectures delivered in Brooklyn. The "Graham Lectures," Brooklyn, were founded by a fund left by Mr. Graham, and, according to the conditions of his benefaction, their design is the illustration of the "power, wisdom, and goodness of God." Agassiz bears in mind this design throughout his "lectures;" though his allusions to it are but incidental, they are nevertheless emphatic. He never sermonizes, but his scientific demonstration of the intelligent design of organized nature is the most decisive we have had the happiness to meet in any production of the chiefs of modern natural science; for it is an indisputable

fact that the living highest authorities in these sciences are characterized generally by a proclivity to theological doubt, if not downright materialism. Agassiz thinks for himself, and utters his thoughts with

the sobriety of a genuine philosopher. Agassiz is known as an opponent of Darwin's development theory. His arguments against that theory are given more fully in these publications than in anything else from his pen that has fallen into our hands. He meets it at several points, and always with a calm and, we think, decisive logic. He deserves special credit for his courage and skill in this respect. The scientific world seems inclined toward Darwinianism; if it hesitates at all it is evidently only for what it presupposes will be demonstrative scientific chieftains obviously thus face the

Secondly, Agassiz shows the fallacy of the argument founded upon the alleged "imperfection of the geological record."

All the readers of Darwin will recall the tenacity with which he demands this concession. But Agassiz affirms that we have has wronged, just before leaving for Cali- cultivator, being careful always not to injure absolutely and clearly the continuous Rock out of harm's way. Harvest when the four great types, coetaneous and independ-frost kills the leaves, by throwing out the ent, but that all the minuter forms of ani-GILBERT. De Profundis. A Tale of the Social Deposits. By William Gilbert, au-thor of "Shirley Hall Asylum." London and New York : A. Strahan. Small 8vo., away, another coming in; but we nowhere not in a single instance through the whole immeasurable extent of the geological pe-

riods, find one merging into another. The transmutation of species is a thing utterly. unknown in the geological record, and that record is now in continuous perfection before the eyes of scientific readers.

If, then, science, especially material its demonstrations, the Darwinian theory back to her exclusive care.

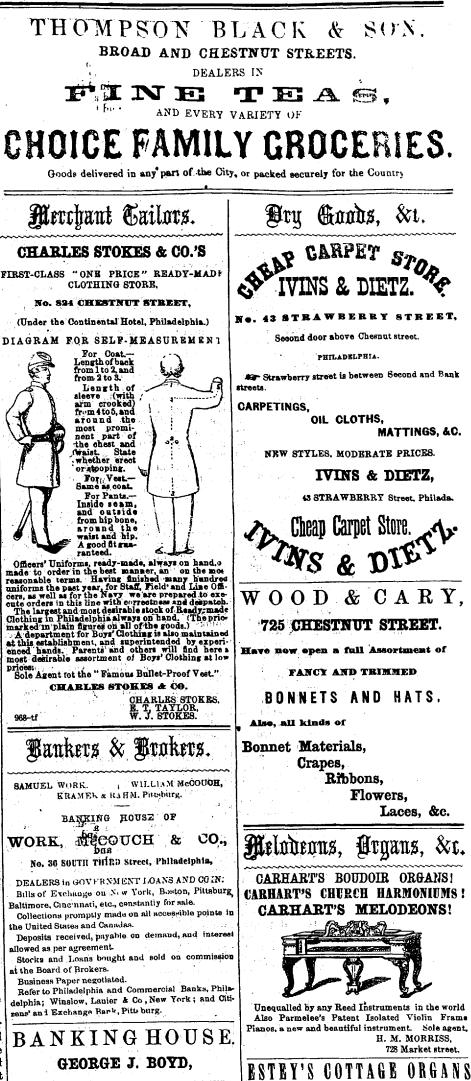
But we must refer the reader to these two most entertaining books. We have given but glimpses of thew.--Christian Advocate.

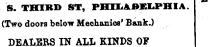
### REMARKABLE ASTRONOMICAL PHE-NOMENA.

Mr. J. R. Hind, in a letter dated "Mr. Bishop's Observatory, Regent's Park, February 3," narrates in the London Times some curious changes which have been observed of late among the stars and nebulæ. He says: "Toward the close of the past year it was announced by Professor d'Arrest, of Copenhagen, that a nebulæ in the constellation Taurus, which was discovered at this obvervatory on the 11th of October, 1852, had totally vanished from its place in the heavens. That one of these objects, which the giant telescopes of the present day have taught us to regard as assemblages of stars in myriads, at immense distances from the earth, should suddenly fade away, so as to be quite imperceptible in powerful instruments, must, I think, have been deemed a very improbable occurrence. Within the last few days, however, M. Leverrier has obtained so strong a confirmation of its accuracy, that there is no longer room for supposing it to have originated in one of those errors of observation which every practical astronomer knows will creep into his work in spite of all his precautions."

Mr. Hind goes on to note that a star of the tenth magnitude, which almost touched the edge of the nebula, has diminished to the twelfth magnitude. From the fact that M. Chacornac saw the nebula in 1854, and did not remark it in 1858, there is reason to infer that the disappearance took place in 1856 or 1857.

In a postscript, Mr. Hind says that, after writing the above statements, he received "a letter from Professor Secchi, the able and energetic director of the Observatory of the Collegio Romano, at Rome, by which it No. 18 appears that in one of the proverbially clear proof. Lyell, Huxley, and other English skies of that city, and with the large telescope at his command, he was unable on the question; and the continental naturalists 27th ult., to discern the least vestige of the nebula. AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS ARE the most perfect purpative which we are able to produce or made by any body. Their effects have abundantly shown to the com-made by any body. Their effects have abundantly shown to the com-dinary medicines in use. They are safe and pleasant to take, but power-ful to cure. Their penetrating pro-perties stimulate the viral activities of the body, re-move the obstructions of its organs, purify the blood, and expel disease. They purge out the foul humers which here d and grow distemper, stimulate sluggish or disordered organs into their natural action, and im-part a healthy tone with strength to the whole exitent Not only do they cure the every-day complaints of everybody, but also formidable and dangerous dis-eases. While they produce powerful effects, they are at the same time, in diminished doses, the safest and sugar-coated, they are pleasant to take; and, being purely vestable, arefree from any risk of harm. Cures have been made which surpass belief, were they not substantiated by men of such -xalted position and character, sto forbid the suspicion of outruth. Many eminent elergymen and physicians have lent their names to certify to the public the reliability of our remedies, while others have sent us the assurance of their conviction that, our Preparations contribute immensely to the relief of our afflicted, suffering fel-low men. The Agent below named is pleased to furnish gratis AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS





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and women, in circumstances transcending in no way the possibilities of active life, yet so managed as to rouse and sustain the deepest interest of the reader, and to convey some weighty reproofs of the mercenary motives too often allowed by parents to dictate in forming family connections for their daughters. The story is quite modern, the scene is laid in Devonshire, England, the leading characters and incidents are drawn with great power, and the whole is comprehended in very brief compass Although the old ladies brought up under the influence of Hannah More's writings are presented, at times, in no ami- in the calendar of the asparagus bed, I able light, yet a purpose to make religion contemptible cannot in fairness be ascribed to the writer. It is, however, worthy ot criticism, that no illustration of the living, sustaining power of true religion once appears in the pages of Leighton Court, unless it be in the poetical quotation at the close.

DOUGLASS. In Trust; or, Dr. Bertrand's Household. By Amanda M. "Douglass. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 12mo., pp. 383.

erature of the authoress, and it is one creditable to her gifts of head and heart. The intention is good, and the execution artistic and skilful. A family suddenly bereft of its head-a widowed father-is left to the control of a step-brother, who discharges his trust in the noblest and most | far north of the line marking the boundary self-denying way. He is a true hero; a of the market production, to an extent suffather to his wayward brother and his ficient for family use. bright and lovely sisters. True piety is unreservedly recognized as the secret of Richard's marvellous equanimity and greatness of soul, yet it is by no means made quantities. If, however, one determines to classes are the radiates, the mollusks, the prominent enough to frighten away mere novel readers. There are plenty of love scenes, half a dozen distinct courtships and proposals; in fact, the whole atmosphere of the book is pervaded with this sort of thing; yet the psychology of each case is | different and is skilfully discriminated. Plentiful use is made of accidents in the the middle of warm, sunny days. When each of these classes is respectively an adstory. Two fatal ones and two quite seri- the plants appear, harden them by exposing vance on the other in the complication and ous in their consequences are introduced, to the sun and air, but protect from the perfection of its typical structure. Lookshowing a deficiency of invention. However, there are elements of originality in the story What is most remarkable is, the presence through almost the entire volume of a character whom polite society would in an atmosphere of perfect purity; who is

A vigorous, healthful story of real men ought to have done so years ago; and since quite generally follow them. the duty is performed, I have greatly regretted that I neglected it so long. How seasonable a luxury has been lacking from my table by putting off from year to year a little timely labor. And is not this remark true in an extended sense of most of us farmers? How much of the toothsome products of the garden we might enjoy, ot fruit we might gloat over, of flowers we might smell, of delicious shade might spread its coolness on our beavers, if we would only expend this bit of timely labor. But I planted my asparagus bed, at least, so as to save time; and I did it. I have gained a year. Generally they do not yield for the table until the third season. but on the 22d of April of the second year made the first cutting; and in a week's time the shoots were up again, of a dark, green color, and as thick as my finger. I planted in this way : In the sunny corner of the garden I had made a hot-bed the previous year. The manure, well rotted, remained in it. This I trenched deeply, and mixed the manure well in the soil. On the top I took care to have three or four inches of nice loam, not over rich. In this I planted strong, two-year old asparagus roots, and hoed them faithfully all summer.

This, we believe, is the first essay in lit- | This is all. The result is, this year I shall have asparagus enough for my own table; next year I expect to have some for my neighbors.

### THE SWEET POTATO.

attempted with reasonable hope of success,

The plants must be grown in a hot-bed, but the better way for one wishing to grow only a small quantity, is to purchase the plants of those who raise them in large hot-bed by the middle of April or first of must be borne in mind that this classifica-May. Cover with two or three inches of tion is no adventitious fact; it is not founvegetable mould, so that the soil will not ed merely in the convenience of scientific bake when freely watered. The bed may | tudy, but in nature itself; it is not an inbe sheltered with cotton cloth for a screen, (which answers as well as glass, and better, in some respects, for any hot-bed late in the season,) which should be removed in versy, must be borne in mind, namely, that cold. Several crops of plants may be produced from one planting of seed. The potatoes should be planted by the

first of June. The soil should be warm, dry, and sandy. It should also be rich Subsoiling is said to be very beneficial. or a character whom points borrow would Throw the land into high ridges, by turn- does geology sweep away his foundations, ing furrows together with a horse plow, for in the lowest rock tablets upon which making the ridges three and a half feet nature has inscribed the record of the most the sage Minerva of the story, and whose se-oret, marvellously and honorably kept, does should be set in a place, from fifteen to should be set in a place, we we not prevent her attaining or seeming wor- eigteen inches apart in the ridge. Wet not find one passing into the other; we find 100-15

Agassiz does not address himself to this theory from any theological or Biblical standpoint; he seems not to think of that; and so much the better, perhaps, for the effect of his argument with scientific readers. He insists on vigorous induction in all matters of natural science; and he insists, with an emphasis quite unwonted in his usual style, that not a single argument can be found in geology or rather paleontology, for the development theory.

But important as this negative fact un questionably is, it is nothing compared with the positive geological arguments adduced in these books, especially in the Graham lectures. He shows that it is not only not proved, but absolutely disproved by geology, that the various forms of animal structure have been developed from an elementary or original form or germ. The capital detect of Darwin's theory, acknowledged by himself and all his chief adherents, is the fact that throughout the whole series of organic remains, disclosed by geology, we nowhere detect that transition from one species into another which is implied in the hypothesis. This is a most vexatious fact to the theorists, and their only reply, one without which their hypothesis must be absolutely abandoned, is the allegation that the geological periods were so inconceivably long, and our knowledge of their connections is so deficient, that we may suppose the points of transition from species to species to be real though yet undetected : that, in other words, we may reasonably The culture of this esculent root may be accept the theory, and await the progress of geological discovery for the answer to this objection.

Agassiz meets this argument in two decisive ways.

First, the four great classes, to which all scientific authorities now refer the whole variety of animal structures, were geologically coetaneous in their origin. These raise them, they should be planted in the articulates, and the vertebrates. Now it No. 809 CHESTNUT STREET. vention of scientific men, but a discovery the inherent plan or system of nature. And another fact, all important in the controing superficially at this last fact, the Darwinian hastily supposes that the advancing series is a developed improvement of the inferior into the higher forms. His theory ought to be demonstrated in these cardina classes, if anywhere. But precisely here

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