

Editor's Table.

MECHANICAL THERAPEUTICS.

Lee.—Contributions to the Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Angular Curvature of the Spine. By Benjamin Lee, M. D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 160o., pp. 129. Tinted paper, bevelled boards.

That the human body is a piece of rare mechanism, as well as a living organism; is one of the facts in medicine which is just beginning to receive full recognition. It is beginning to be admitted, not only that mechanical means must have a large place beside what may be called physiological and chemical, but that the greatest danger and damage may result from application of the latter, where nature calls for the former.

Dr. Lee, a physician in regular practice in this city, a son of the universally respected bishop of Delaware, is one of those courageous and enthusiastic men, who are always needed as pioneers in an arduous undertaking. His thesis at graduation, which took one of the two prizes offered was on "Mechanical Therapeutics," and he has since, in this country and in Europe, pursued the line of study and practice therein indicated. The volume before us is occupied with the application of this mode of treatment to a single, though very large, class of cases, those involving angular curvature of the spine. The initial symptoms—often so misleading—of the disease; the ordinary and often exceedingly injurious and aggravating modes of treatment; the mechanical method, illustrated by a statement of cases, form the contents of successive chapters, and the light and hope they shed on these hitherto saddest cases of deformity and helplessness ought to be made to penetrate to every corner of the land. Dr. Lee has made the mechanical treatment a speciality and we should rejoice if by this notice, we were the means of directing any sufferers from this or from other causes indicating mechanical treatment, to his care.

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL.

Holmes.—The Guardian Angel. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. 16mo., pp. 420. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

The well known peculiarities, good and bad of the author, are reproduced in this volume. There is decided power of invention and acuteness in characterization; the story possesses peculiar interest from the novel elements and conceptions wrought into it; many keen and witty sayings sparkle in its pages; a large part of the interest of the story turns upon the comparative shrewdness and sagacity of two leading characters. But broad and elevated moral qualities do not come within the purview of the author. The book is rather a revelation of the author's theory of mental and physical development; a process, in the different stages of which, he believes the different qualities of our ancestors, if not their very personalities, reappear in their descendants. This view he illustrates at length in the life of the heroine, Myrtle Hazard, with the skill of the scientific physiologist, and sometimes with a disagreeable exhibition of the mental dissecting knife. To Rev. Mr. Stoker he gives an odious character;—that of a refined and not actually criminal sensualist, using his advantages as spiritual adviser to cultivate unholy sentiments in his own heart, and in those of the tender members of his flock. Mr. S. is only half conscious of the full meaning of his conduct, and perhaps there are clergymen who need to have just such a character held up as a warning against admitting the first insidious approaches of the tempter, who is found in the Protestant, as well as the Roman Catholic church. Whether this was the wholesome intent of the writer, or whether he merely wished to vent his spleen against the orthodox clergy and so libelled them as a class in Mr. Stoker, we cannot decide, especially as in his preface, he does speak of being acquainted with good men in the ministry. But the book abounds with small flings at orthodox doctrine, and the mode of living of orthodox persons; almost the only view we have of such persons is in the form of exaggeration and caricature; conversation is described and ridiculed as a pathological curiosity, and the whole spirit of the book is intensely anti-evangelical and materialistic. The Guardian Angel itself turns out to be a man at last.

METRICAL TRANSLATION.

Duffield.—The Heavenly Land; from the De Comptis Mandi of Bernard De Morlaix, Monk of Cluny (XII Century). Rendered into Corresponding English Verse. By Samuel W. Duffield. 16mo., pp. 35. Published and for sale as above.

This is a courageous, and in many respects remarkable, attempt at solving a problem in the rendering of medieval Latin poetry, which the acknowledged masters in that line have agreed to pronounce impracticable. The original Latin is as complicated in structure and rhyme as Poe's Raven, and Mr. Duffield has attempted to give an English version exactly corresponding in rhythm to the Latin and with the same arrangement of the rhymes, and crowning his effort by a close approach to a literal line-for-line rendering of the entire poem. It would be little less than a miracle for such an attempt to prove a complete success; but the approximation to success made by the translator is surprising; sometimes the correspondence of his lines with the original is startling, as the following:

Pax sine crimine, pax sine turbine, pax sine rixa. Peace without wickedness, peace without wretchedness, peace without quarrel.

Sometimes the lines, without being so close a rendering, are full of their own poetic beauty, as "Search for thee, care for thee, love, hope, and prayer for thee, is my vocation."

"O thou my trust of old, Zion whose dust of gold, our gold outshineth."

The several lines commencing, "Land all beneficent, country magnificent," &c. We have not space for longer quotations, but must refer our readers to the little book itself, which closes with a cautious Latin version of "Just as I am."

Sheppard.—"Judge Not," or Hester Powers' Girlhood. By Mrs. Edwin Sheppard. 12mo., pp. 224. Boston: A. K. Loring. \$1.50.

Hester Powers is represented as the only daughter in a plain English country home, with whom the only daughter of the wealthy Sir Hester Falkstone, far above her in station, forms an intimacy which excites the jealousy of the servants in her father's hall, and they successfully

plot the ruin of the girl's reputation for honesty. As a consequence, the innocent Hester dies of a broken heart, the bride of an hour. There are thus materials for a deep and interesting story, which are wrought up with much dramatic skill and power, and arrayed in attractive language. The characters are well distinguished; especially is the coarse envy of the servants well brought out in the dialogue, to which the blunt and rugged goodness of Rabens the butler, who can't be drawn into the plot against Hester, is in refreshing contrast. The lessons of the book are good, though suited best to a state of society in which artificial distinctions prevail, as in England.

PALMER.—Hymns of my Holy Hours, and Other Pieces. By Ray Palmer. 16mo., pp. 103. Gilt. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph. Philadelphia: Smith, English & Co.

Dr. Palmer has won an enviable reputation as among the first of the few lyrical Christian poets of America. The characteristics of his style are sweetness rather than strength; calm contemplation and enjoyment than rapture and passion. His verse is smooth and mellifluous, and sometimes managed with very marked skill; (see "Midnight Worship," page 15.) Each hymn brings out some moment of Christian experience, illustrating at the same time, some apt quotation from Scripture. The latter part of the volume contains pieces of more miscellaneous character. All lovers of genuine Christian sentiment expressed in song will welcome the volume. The externals are exceedingly handsome.

HYMNS OF THE HIGHER LIFE.—24mo., pp. 224. Gilt. \$1.50. New York: Broughton & Wynne. Philadelphia: Jas. S. Claxton.

This is a selection of poetry embodying the desires and aspirations of the soul after the highest form of the divine life upon earth, and the consequent devotion of the heart and life to the service of the Redeemer. The choice is made with great skill and good taste, and the collection is valuable. An index of authors and one of first lines are added. The paper is heavy and tinted, and the volume is elegantly bound.

THE THREE HOLY KINGS.—With Photographic Illustrations. New York: Hurd & Houghton. 8vo., pp. 31.

A Christmas book, novel but appropriate in conception, and elegant in execution. The letter press gives the substance of all that is known or has been guessed concerning the Magi, and their wonderful visit to the babe of Bethlehem—one of the most attractive matters of Biblical inquiry. The views advanced are sound, and care is taken to distinguish between reasonable supposition and mere fable. The full page photographic illustrations are among the finest we have ever seen. They are copies of bas-relief, and of ancient paintings of which we should have been glad to hear more particularly from our author. For the subject has been attractive to painters and sculptors, as it has been to exegetes, astronomers and monkish story-tellers. The treatise, we are told, is the expanded Bible-class lesson of a young layman in New York, not unworthy of his honored relatives in the ministry and eldership.

M. W. DODD.

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SEA.—A story of the Commonwealth and the Restoration. A Sequel to the "Draytons and the Davenants." By the author of "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family." 12mo., pp. 510. \$1.75. New York: M. W. Dodd. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Book Store.

Our author is still working with spirit the peculiar vein of historical romance, which she opened with such marvellous success in the Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family. Her historical characters, incidents and sayings are presented with a rigorous regard to truth. Around and among them is interwoven with extraordinary skill and gracefulness a deeply interesting chain of domestic events, which are fictitious in one sense, yet strictly appropriate to the times, and so both true and an aid to the right conception of the graver events and characters of the history with which they are associated. The stirring times of Cromwell and Charles, in which the religious question enters so largely form the historical basis of the work, which is a continuation of the Draytons and Davenants, not long ago published by Mr. Dodd, whose issues alone of her works have the author's sanction. The story is well managed, all the great characters of the times are introduced, the style is of that feminine delicacy and autobiographic unreserve, which make this whole series so charming; the impressions are pure and noble, promotive of good taste and right feeling as well as imparting high enjoyment.

FARQUHARSON.—Elsie Dismore. By Martha Farquharson. 16mo., pp. 288. Published and for sale as above.

A beautiful and instructive story, in which the power of true piety in a very young child, is admirably exhibited in a series of trials, which, though severe and unusual, are not beyond the limits of probability. Elsie Dismore reminds us a great deal of Daisy in Melbourne House by another author. But each story has its own peculiarities. Elsie's trials are perhaps more varied, coming from many different quarters, but the power of simple goodness and conscientiousness, after many sore conflicts, triumphs at last. The illustrations are good.

S. T. C.—The Little Fox; or, The story of Captain Sir F. L. McClintock's Arctic Expedition. Written for the young. By S. T. C., author of "Little Facts for Little People," "Waggie and Wattie," &c. Sq. 16mo., pp. 198. \$1. Published and for sale as above.

A very successful adaptation of the story of Sir F. L. McClintock's Arctic Expedition, in which little craft called the Fox, in search of Sir John Franklin. It was the expedition which obtained undoubted memorials of the death of Franklin and failure of his expedition. The story is not only told in the most interesting manner, but it embodies much useful information about the countries and animals of that part of the world, and is filled to make valuable impressions upon the young reader's mind. It is within the comprehension of quite young children, but will prove interesting to all young and old.

MOORE.—The Clifford Household. By J. F. Moore. 16mo., pp. 308. Illustrated. Published and for sale as above.

A domestic story, the interest of which turns upon the diverse treatment given to a step-mother, by the different members of the household. The story is well told and the spirit and lessons of this narrative are pure and evangelical.

MANERING.—Billy Grimes' Favorite; or, Johnny Greenleaf's Talents. (Helping Hand Series.) By May Manering. 16mo., pp. 191. Boston: Lee & Shepard. Philadelphia: G. W. Fisher.

Johnny Greenleaf, believed by parents and neighbors to be half-witted, by the power of goodness and under the example and instructions of a deeply pious old negro, rises to usefulness and honor as a chaplain in the Union army, while the smarter but unprincipled boys who used to tease him and his friend Billy Grimes, get into trouble, gladly receive his aid or come to a bad end. The story is full of incident, is quite original in plot, and will be read with interest and profit by the young of all classes.

MAY.—Dotty Dimple at her Grandmother's. (Dotty Dimple Stories.) By Sophia May, author of "Little Prudy Stories." 18mo., pp. 190. Illustrated. Published and for sale as above.

A story of child life, drawn directly from nature. The child's dialect and the child's ways are accurately reproduced; the difference of ages between the two principal personages is skillfully represented. The incidents and sayings are quaint and amusing, and the lessons which are interwoven are such as a child needs to know. The volume forms the first of the "Dotty Dimple" stories.

SCHMUCKER.—The Church of the Redeemer, as developed in the General Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. With a Historic Outline from the Apostolic Age. To which is appended a Plan for Restoring Apostolic Union between all Orthodox Denominations. By S. S. Schmucker, D. D., Emeritus Professor of Theology in the Theological Seminary, Gettysburg. 16mo., pp. 281. Baltimore: T. Newton Kurtz. Philadelphia: E. W. Miller. Gettysburg: A. D. Buehler.

This is a thorough historic vindication of the character and spirit of the General Synod (the evangelical and liberal branch) of the Lutheran church in this country, and derives especial interest from the struggles and divisions now taking place in that ancient Church. One of the aims of this General Synod is stated to be the promotion of union among all Evangelical denominations, into which our author enters with zeal. Already in 1838 Prof. Schmucker had published a circular containing a detailed plan of the Confederation of all these churches, which was widely approved and signed by prominent men in each of the churches, which plan is published in an Appendix at the close of the book. There is a great deal of valuable information contained in the volume which is made accessible by a full index.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

BROCKENBURY.—(Mitchell's School Geographies. Fifth Book of the Series.) Elements of Physical Geography, together with a treatise on the Physical Phenomena of the United States. Illustrated by 150 engravings and 13 copper-plate maps, executed in the first style of the art. By John Brocklebury, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., author of Elements of Meteorology; Elements of Astrology, etc. Philadelphia: E. H. Butler & Co.

In this treatise, all the chief physical features of our globe are exhibited, apart from those artificial distinctions made by man, which have generally been largely intermingled with the subject, and have in the youthful student's mind, tended to throw it unfairly into the shade. The vast mass of facts are treated clearly, systematically, and with a freshness which aided by copious and beautiful illustrations, cannot fail to charm while it instructs the scholar. There are thirteen full-page copper plate maps, exhibiting the great divisions and natural features of the globe, its earthquake centres, temperature, tides, ocean currents, winds and hurricanes, rains, floras, faunas, and races of men. Special attention is given to the physical geography of the United States.

HANCOCK.—The Constitution and Government of the United States: with questions and answers for the use of the people. Also adapted for schools. With the late amendments. By John Hancock. 18mo., pp. 130. Philadelphia: H. Challen.

Mr. Hancock's little treatise is valuable, and deserves to be widely used in the education of the youth of our country. He not only explains the meaning of the clauses of that instrument, but quotes and refers to acknowledged authorities in its interpretation.

FRENCH.—Elementary Arithmetic for the Slate, in which methods and rules are based upon principles established by induction. By John H. French, LL. D. 18mo., pp. 220. New York: Harper & Bros.

A text book constructed with conscientious regard to the necessities of scholars. The process of induction in the learner is aided by graphic and beautiful wood cuts. If learning can be made a pleasure to the young, Mr. French and his publishers have shown us how it is to be done.

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