

Editor's Table.

Publishers will confer a favor by mentioning the prices of all books sent to this Department.

The chronicler of the Schönborg-Cotta Family has continued to work the mine of Luther's life and wisdom in a new volume, WATCHWORDS FOR THE WARFARE OF LIFE. FROM DR. MARTIN LUTHER. It consists of a series of extracts (mostly short ones and pithy) from his works, letters and table-talk, newly translated by Mrs. Charles, from the original German and Latin. Martin Luther was a man of the broadest and most genial sympathies, the shrewdest wisdom, and the profoundest faith. It is a pity that he is little known to those who owe so much to him, and that his writings are so seldom read by Protestants. We welcome Mrs. Charles' work as a worthy aid to the understanding of the man whose "words were half-battles." It is worthy to stand beside the beautiful edition of his "Table Talk," published by the "Lutheran Publication Society." If it has any fault it is that it draws too largely on that work, which is, already before the English and American public. Published by M. W. Dodd, of New York, and for sale at the Presbyterian House. Price \$1.75.

CONSTANCE AYLMER, published by Scribner & Co. of New York, is a real addition to the not very extensive stock of standard historical American novels. The scene is New York, the time when it was New Amsterdam, and the plot is developed with considerable skill. The authoress has not Miss Manning's power of projecting herself into the scenes of the past, and her pages show anachronisms of thought and sentiment, like those of the Waverley novels. The style might be more simple without injury to the merits of the book. But, with these trifling drawbacks, the story is a fine one, and many a reader will thank "H. E. P." for more than amusement as they close the book.

GRACE MANSFIELD'S EXPERIMENT. Pp. 274. J. C. Garrigues & Co., Philadelphia.

A short time since, The College Courant, a widely circulated paper, published at New Haven, handled Sabbath School literature without gloves. It was severe, no doubt, but it was righteously and justly so. We are cursed with a class of books, coming no one knows whence, which are wild in doctrine and wilder in practice. They are, in short, a species of novels, lacking the good points of undisguised fiction, and having no redeeming moral excellencies to justify their claim to attention. And there are more of them in our Sunday Schools than is convenient.

Do not understand us to require for that place and service only memoirs and dry essays. Far from it. We want books like this little one before us—books of live interest, which will not make "Sunday reading" the shadow of a name—books with a heart and with a purpose to them—books to make us feel better when we lay them down. Yet even this can be improved in some respects. Not in its lessons, but in its language. And Mrs. Dunning can make the change. And the Messrs. Garrigues deserve our thanks at any rate.

THE "MYRTLE BRANCH" is a book gotten up in a very curious manner, to wit, with a couple of myrtle vines twining around each page. It contains several pleasant stories for children of medium ability—both as respects stories and children. Pp. 176. A. F. Graves, Boston.

PERIODICALS.

SELECTIVE PERIODICALS.—The weeklies and monthlies which are made up of the best things in foreign periodical literature, are not the least attractive of our periodicals. LITTELL'S LIVING AGE is the first and the chief. The standard works of fiction which appear in its pages would, of themselves, be worth its cost. It is published every Saturday, and gives 3000 pages of closely printed double column matter yearly for \$8.00. It has just entered on its hundredth volume, and is publishing (as serials) Trollope's "Phineas Finn, the Irish Member," and Berthold Auerbach's "Country House on the Rhine." EVERY SATURDAY is lighter in character, embracing mostly papers of a less lasting value, though, perhaps, to many readers more amusing. It is publishing (as serials) Trollope's last story, "He Knew He was Right," and Dickens' new series of "Uncommercial Papers." It costs \$5.00 a year and its two semi-annual volumes contain over 800 pages each. THE NEW ECLECTIC hails from Baltimore, and seems to be conducted with a view to excluding anything from English periodicals that would hurt Southern feelings. In spite of this provincial prejudice, it is readable and interesting. A fine portrait of Ruskin adorns a recent number. THE THEOLOGICAL ECLECTIC of New York, becomes a monthly with the New Year, on entering on its sixth volume, and lowers its price to \$2.50 for a yearly volume of 600 pages, an increase in size of one half. Quality excellent.

JUVENILE PERIODICALS.—Since the Edgeworths laid the foundation of juvenile literature in "Sandford and Merton," it has grown at an amazing rate, and in no country more rapidly than our own. It is of all species—from the most worthless trash, up to the most valuable and instructive works. Its periodical department alone is so extensive that we can seldom find the room to properly notice even the most deserving

deserving issues. Our Young Folks (Fields, Osgood & Co. \$2.00 a year) stands highest, commanding the most costly contributors and the widest range of readers. Yet it has no monopoly of merit or popularity. THE SCHOOLMATE, (Boston, \$1.50 a year), addressing itself perhaps more to one class of our young folks, being more of a school-boy's magazine than its competitor, is well worthy of the wide patronage it receives. It is fresh, lively, graphic, and every school-boy reader regards it as a "jolly" magazine. THE LITTLE CORPORAL (published by Alfred L. Sewell & Co., at \$1.50 a year) is one of the most Chicagoish of periodicals. Crisp, fresh, go-ahead, high in moral tone and vigorous in management, it may be less Bostonian than the two first, but it is decidedly more American. Our own city boasts of more than one monthly for the children, but we regard "THE LITTLE PILGRIM" as the foremost. We need only say that the author of "The History of My Pets" edits it, and that her exquisite humor, profound knowledge of childish nature, playful sympathy, and simplicity of style, characterize its pages. "Grace Greenwood" will ever be a favorite with the children. CLARKE'S SCHOOL-DAY VISITOR is not in itself so high in its range, but its merits and usefulness are indisputable. We would gladly see it introduced into all our schools. The Messrs. Martien have added still another to the list in their new weekly, THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEWS, which will doubtless find a welcome in many homes, where a pure Christian literature is used.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

CHAPIN.—The Hand of Jesus. By Rev. J. Chapin, D. D. 18mo. 240 pp. Boston: Andrew T. Graves, No. 20 Cornhill. Phila.: J. L. Caxton, and J. G. Garrigues & Co. DUNNING.—Grace Mansfield's Experiment. By A. K. Dunning. 18mo. 274 pp. Phila.: J. C. Garrigues & Co., 608 Arch St. THE MYRTLE BRANCH, or, Pictorial Sketches for Children and Youth. 8vo. 176 pp. Boston: Andrew F. Graves. Phila.: Am. S. S. Union.

Scientific.

HYDRAULIC POWER.

Is it not possible to utilize still water in a lake or pond for mechanical purposes? Of course this is nothing more than asking a question: "When one can stand in a basket, and lift himself by the handles, then can still water propel machinery," was the imaginary answer of a savant of authority. A thousand years hence, provided civilization, with its developing influences on the human mind, is not retarded, this period will be regarded in history as only a beginning of that splendid career which the brain has over matter. No one had confidence in steam as a reliable power, that could be controlled at pleasure, when Fulton risked his reputation on the assertion that it was destined to revolutionize the world. Mr. Stephenson was interrogated by a committee of the British Parliament respecting his locomotive-engine for dragging cars on a railway, and when he gave an opinion that it would run at a speed of four miles an hour, that august body of wooden-headed legislators, totally unqualified for appreciating the grandeur of a humble artisan's discovery of a great principle, sneered at the idea. What! a machine travel as fast as a horse! How contemptibly ridiculous! Worse and worse—as though it were the culmination of lunacy—when Morse proposed making a messenger of lightning! He struggled, just as every original benefactor of the race had before him, against ignorance, prejudice, and the assinine incredulity of such people as happen to enjoy a reputation for some kind of wisdom, who may not have even a pennyweight of common sense. If the sun's concentrated rays, brought to a heating focus by a great convex lens, can keep a steam engine of any convenient magnitude in operation, without the assistance of any other fuel, a small one, constantly working, might raise water enough to an elevation in a reservoir, the weight and falling momentum of which, on a turbine-wheel, may yet revolutionize all modern notions in regard to hydraulic power. An opinion prevails of late that water was made for something besides accommodating fishes, floating ships, and making tea. There is so much of it, covering about two thirds the surface of the globe, and it is so intimately associated with life in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and is made such use of by nature in dynamic exhibitions of power, surpassing all other forces in upheaving continents, grinding the mountains to powder, or bearing on its crest icebergs from the poles, it is no dreamy expectation that a way of mastering water may yet be discovered to make it obedient to the behests of man, in new relations of incalculable importance in the mechanical triumphs of succeeding ages.—Hearth and Home.

A NEW MOTIVE POWER.

Captain Ericsson, of Monitor fame, is one of the first mechanical geniuses of the age. He is a man of profound thought, who wastes none of the precious hours of life in frivolous pursuits. Animated by an untiring effort to live to some purpose, he seems to be incessantly interrogating nature, or putting the forces belonging to its domain under contribution for the service of man. One of Captain Ericsson's latest and most startling announcements relates to the sun's heat. He has contrived to concentrate its rays so as to keep a steam-engine in full play, with as much ease and more economy than it could be kept going with coal. In short, by mathematical exactness, that extraordinary man exhibits just how much of the sun's surface may be used by lenses,

and what will be the degree of heat thus obtained for keeping even thousands of steam-engines in motion, independent of any other kind of fuel. Captain Ericsson calculates a period when all the coal-fields of Europe will be exhausted. At that eventful epoch, manufacturers may fall back on the centre of the solar system for a potent substitute, which can never give out till the universe itself is blotted out of existence. Instead of ridiculing his announcement, or criticising his calculations on calorific force to be thus obtained, let philosophers take up the subject in sober earnest, in devising ways for profiting by this great discovery of the most remarkable engineer who has appeared in this or any other country since the days of Archimedes.—Hearth and Home.

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