

LITERATURE.
REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

THE PHYSICAL LIFE OF WOMAN. By George H. Napheys, A. M., M. D. Published by George Maclean, No. 719 Sanson street.

This is a work by a physician of reputation on the hygiene of woman, designed for popular use, and introducing a variety of topics not generally discussed outside of regular scientific medical works. It is certain, however, that many of the ills which humanity is heir to are due to a want of proper knowledge of such subjects, especially by the women of the country.

A properly written treatise on the relations of the sexes, however, can scarcely fail to be productive of incalculable good to many who cannot understand the technical terms of the standard medical works, and who are repelled, by a false modesty perhaps, from even consulting with their physicians upon matters that every man and woman ought to thoroughly understand.

Dr. Napheys writes with dignity and earnestness, and there is not a chapter in his book that may not be read with profit by persons of both sexes. Of course, such a work as this is intended for men and women of mature years, and it is not suitable to be left lying about for the gratification of idle curiosity.

The author has been careful, however, to write nothing that can possibly give offence, and he conveys much sound instruction that, if heeded by those to whom it is particularly addressed, will save much suffering.

Before venturing upon publication the author submitted the work to the judgment of a number of eminent divines and literary men, all of whom commend it heartily. This was perhaps a necessary precaution, as there is a well-founded prejudice against most attempts at popular writing on such subjects.

Of course a large portion of the work is not adapted for quotation in the columns of a newspaper, but we consider the following observations on divorce judicious, and we give them as a specimen of Dr. Napheys' style:—

"He of Nazareth laid down the law that whoever puts away his wife for any cause except adultery, and marries again, commits adultery, and that whoever marries puts away her divorcée, and so on."

From T. Ellwood Zell we have received numbers 55 and 56 of "Zell's Popular Encyclopedia," which reaches the title "Capyrillie Acid."

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PERE HYACINTHE.
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The Ultramontane party, however, have been forced to fight a hard battle with their Liberal foes. They have had to contend with a band of men to whom nature had given extraordinary intellectual gifts, and whose piety it was impossible for the jealousy of orthodox itself to impugn.

"Whether we look at it as a question in social life, in morals, or in physiology, the American plan of granting aseptic divorces is dangerous and destructive to what is best in life. It leads to hasty, ill-considered matches, to an unwillingness to yield to each other's peculiarities, to a weakening of the family ties, to a lax morality, to carry a trifle farther than it now is in some States, and marriage will lose all its sacredness, and degenerate into a physical union not nobler than the crossing of mice in the air."

"What has been said of divorce afflicts with tenfold force the woman who, in wedlock, has been separated from her husband, and is generally left with her own property. But in the eyes of God and nature a woman or a man with two faithful spouses living to each of whom an eternal fidelity has been pledged, is a monster."

AMERICAN COMMERCIAL LAW. By Franklin Chamberlain. Published by O. D. Case & Co., Hartford, Conn. Any work that proposes to make every man a lawyer will necessarily be a failure, for law is a science as well as a medicine, and it can only be understood in all its details by those who devote themselves specially to it.

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