NEW PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The North American Review for October. This number is undoubtedly what they call heavy. That is to say, the various topics are treated in a manner decidedly technical rather than popular. The first essay, "Philosophical Biology," is a review of Herbert Spencer's work, *The Principles of Biology*, by Francis Ellingwood Abbot. Mr. Abbot gives due importance to Spencer's method, as the effort of a man who takes a comprehensive standpoint, and endeavors to synthesize and reconcile the studies of philosophers who have pursued special trains of investigation and arrived at strongly idiomatic theories. The reviewer's inquiry concerns not so much the scientific value of Mr. Herbert's facts as the philosophical value of his system; this he pronounces fatally weak, so far as it endeavors to express facts of one science in the formulas of another, or in formulas so abstract as to be forced in common upon both. "Never attempted to solve the problems of one science by the order of conceptions peculiar to another," has said an amateur philosopher of much sagacity, Mr. George H. Lewes. Mr. Spencer, in fact, attempts to strain the "mechanic theory," or the order of conceptions peculiar to mechanics, so as to solve the questions of the science of life.—Most of the other articles are about economics and pedagogics. Mr. A. A. Wasson, in his article on "Epic Philosophy," concedes a very true theory under the rank flowers of a verbose style. Mr. Henry Brooks Adams, in a very admirable review of Sir Charles Lyell's "Principles of Geology." The paper sums up most ably the present attainments of an infant science.

Some other articles are contributions to history. The account of the New York Convention is by Mr. George B. Woods, whose admirable Washington letters to the Boston *Advertiser* during the impeachment trial will have sent all who read them looking to the proper source for a serious piece of writing. An English writer with a very ready pen, Mr. Leslie Stephen, describes the "Political Situation in Germany from a liberal point of view." Another Briton, Mr. R. D. Osborn, an officer in the India service, contributes a lively article on the Sioux or Dakotas. It takes the rather startling fact that a late English cavalry officer named Nicholson was killed at his death, and is to-day worshipped as a god by a sect, under the name of Nikkulseyn.

Mr. Charles A. Cutter, a librarian in the institution he describes, exhibits, with some strictures, the management of the collegiate Library of Cambridge.

The pleasantest reading in the number is Mr. H. W. Sherman's biographical sketch of Massimo D'Azeglio, an Italian patriot and liberal, son-in-law of Manzoni (who wrote the famous *Promessi Sposi*) friend of Alfieri and of Cavour,—and of King Victor Emmanuele until the latter by his dissipation compelled the sturdy moralist to refuse his hand when the king offered his cousin.

We find a good deal of insight in the criticism of "The Spanish Gypsy," by Henry James, Jr., although it is not so favorable as most of the English notices of that poem. The rest of the criticism in the number, relegated by Mr. Russell Lowell to the proper heading