

local departments are at least full. We should suggest that its interest abroad might possibly be increased by representing or in some way intimating the special features of the institution in its work.

—The *Pennsylvanian* regularly puts in its most welcome appearance. We count it our good fortune to receive encouraging recognition from such a college journal. We are glad to find in the arena so good an example as the *Pennsylvanian* in live spirit and journalistic character. Its vigor in its news and home department we think worthy of emulation.

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### BOOK REVIEW.

#### A NEW FEATURE IN WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY.

The publishers of Webster have recently added to the Unabridged a "*Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World*," containing over 25,000 titles, briefly describing the countries, cities, towns, and natural features of every part of the globe. It makes an addition of a hundred pages.

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#### TRAUTWINE'S ENGINEER'S POCKET BOOK. New York; Wiley & Sons. Price, Morocco, \$5.00.

This is essentially an era of reckless book-making and its evils are full upon us. There is a mania to "publish," the more the better, with a general tendency to gaugement by quantity rather than by quality. This book of John C. Trautwine's is of the nobler class; it is a pearl of great price, embodying the results of a long, active and professional life. It is to the engineer, epitomic of sound, theoretical and practical knowledge; hence he really needs and wants it; therefore it can be said that it has a *raison d'être*, a quality that is rapidly becoming unique. The author holds a high place among those men whose names are associated with the success of many of the projects for internal improvements undertaken by the state of Pennsylvania. He was prominently associated in canal projects in South America and Panama, and in 1858 was consulting engineer in the harbor improvements at Montreal, Canada. About 1864 he retired from active work, and gave himself up to original experimental research, the results of which form a portion of the "Pocket Book," and command confidence, because of the thoroughness of the man and the honesty of his work.

"A CENTURY OF ELECTRICITY." By J. C. Mendenhall. Boston and New York; Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1887. Price, cloth, \$1.25.

The above work is an excellent sketch of the development of the science of electricity and its application since the great discovery made by Galvani, in 1786. Before this date there was no science of electricity, only a few unconnected facts; and but one application, Franklin's lightning-rod. Within this hundred years have occurred the discoveries that immortalized Galvani and Volta, Oersted and Ampere, Faraday and Henry, and rendered illustrious many lesser names; and also those applications of principles that have made Wheatstone, Morse, Bell, Edison and others famous. The author's purpose is "to give a somewhat connected account of this wonderful progress, and especially to bring into prominence the few principal points from which the successful attacks upon the mysteries of nature have been made." The book is not a scientific treatise, and can be readily understood by those who are not specialists in this or any of the physical sciences. To intelligent readers it cannot fail to be highly interesting. While mathematical formulæ are not employed and the use of technical terms is avoided, the explanations of principles, unlike those in too many "popular science" books, must tend to the formation of only correct conceptions.

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