

vasculaire des toxines microbiennes; F. Le Dantec, *La Sexualité*; A. Martel, *Spéléologie*; P. Mazé, *Évolution du carbone et de l'azote*; M. Mendelssohn, *Les réflexes*; Poirault, *La fécondation chez les végétaux*; B. Renault, *La houille*; H. Roger, *L'infection*; J. Thiroloix, *La fonction pancréatique*; A. Van Gehuchten, *La cellule nerveuse et la doctrine des neurones*; and J. Winter, *La matière minérale dans l'organisme*.

The timely character of these little books will be seen from the foregoing simple enumeration of their titles, and it only remains to be added that, so far as the subject permits, the treatment has been in each case popular and is intelligible even to the non-scientific reader.

T. J. McC.

AN INTERNATIONAL PRIMER-CYCLOPÆDIA.

The first two volumes of the *Temple Primers*, which are designed to form a complete and trustworthy primer-cyclopædia of modern knowledge, have just appeared. They are the first of "a series of small volumes of condensed information introductory to great subjects, written by leading authorities, adapted at once to the needs of the general public, and forming introductions to the special studies of scholars and students." The enterprise is international in its character. Mr Henry Bradley, joint-editor of the *New English Dictionary*, will write on *The Making of English*; Dr. Henry Sweet, the famous philologist, on *The History of Language*; Professor William Ramsay, F. R. S., the joint-discoverer of Argon, on *Modern Chemistry*; M. Gaston Paris, Member of the French Academy, on *Medieval French Literature*; Professor Villari, on *The Italian Renaissance*; etc., etc. The publishers have entered into close relationship with Messrs. Göschen, of Leipzig, whose excellent series of German primers has been mentioned at length in former numbers of *The Open Court*. The *Sammlung Göschen*, as it is called, has been very successful, and some of the numbers of this collection will be translated into English and incorporated in the Temple series. The subjects to be treated by German authors are: *The Human Frame and Laws of Health*, by Drs. Rebman and Seiler; *Plants, Their Structure and Life*, by Dr. Dennert; *Primitive Man*, by Dr. Hornes; *The Civilisation of the East*, by Dr. Hommell; *The Races of Mankind*, by Dr. M. Haberlandt; *Roman History*, by Dr. Koch; *Teutonic Mythology*, by Dr. Kaufman. The books will be illustrated with the necessary reproductions of diagrams and charts, and to judge from the two opening volumes of the series they will prove to be very attractive in form.

The *Introduction to Science*, which is the first number, by Alexander Hill M. D., contains portraits of Lord Lister, Lord Bacon, Lord Kelvin, Robert Boyle Charles Darwin, and Sir Charles Bell. Dr. Hill's book aims at giving "an account in popular language of the scientific problems which are most prominent at the present time, and attempts to portray the attitude of mind of those who are engaged in solving them." The first section of the little book is devoted to general discussions of the character of science and scientific inquiry, the relation of philosophy to science, the classification of the sciences, the history of science, and the method of science. The author, in our opinion, has hardly been as successful in his treatment of first principles as he has been in the statement of the present problems of science, which takes up the second section of the book and treats of the age of the earth, the ultimate constitution of matter, the origin of species, the cause of the coagulation of blood, the function of nerve-fibres and nerve-cells, and microphytology. There are many statements in his discussion of first principles to which

most students of the philosophy of science would take exception, and which seem to be the expression of a certain agnostic attitude of thought with respect to the boundaries of science and philosophy and of science and religion,—an attitude which for some years has been characteristic of the "pure scientist."

The second volume of the series is a *History of Politics*, by Edward Jenks, M. A., Reader in Law to the University of Oxford, and is a very able summary of the history of politics as actually embodied in the political institutions of history. The author aims to give "a brief account of what men have *done*, not of what they have *thought*, in that important branch of human activity which we call Politics, or the Art of Government." After an introduction on types of society, the author takes up: (1) Savage Society; (2) Patriarchal Society (discussing tribal organisation, agriculture and the clan, industry and the gild); and (3) Modern (Political) Society (discussing the state and feudalism, early political institutions, the state and property, the state and justice, the state and administration, and varieties of political society). A short bibliography concludes the work, the first page of which is adorned by a picture of Westminster Hall and the old Houses of Parliament.

The price of the little volumes is 40 cents each,—not so cheap as the Göschen series, but certainly very reasonable. The publishers are, in New York, the Macmillan Co.; and in London, J. M. Dent & Co. T. J. McC.

FRENCH SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.

M. Félix Le Dantec, lecturer on embryology in the Sorbonne, is favorably known in scientific circles for his contributions to general biology and for his writings on the general chemical and physical theory of life. A new little book by him therefore, on the *Lamarckians and Darwinians, a Discussion of Some of the Theories of the Formation of Species*,¹ will be welcomed by students as furnishing a succinct and trustworthy résumé of the modern theory of development. Darwin did not render justice to the work of his great predecessor, Lamarck, nor have Darwin's disciples shown much greater appreciation for the merits of the French thinker. By way of reaction, therefore, there has been a recrudescence of Lamarckian doctrines in the last two decades, and noteworthy contributions to science have been the result. American inquirers especially have adopted, developed, and even exaggerated the Lamarckian points of view. Taking a reconciliatory stand, now, M. Le Dantec proposes to show that neither point of view is absolutely correct, and that the fault of the two schools lies in their extreme exclusiveness. Personally he is of the belief that the general laws of biology, as already established can be deduced *a priori* from a knowledge of the *elementary* properties of living bodies, and he accordingly begins with an exposition of these elementary properties with the idea of leading the reader by a series of *purely logical* deductions to a knowledge of the fundamental principles which Darwin and Lamarck deduced directly from the *observation of the higher creatures* of the animal scale. The biological problems considered by the author relate mainly to the foundations of species, to the heredity of acquired characters, to mimicry, and to the bio-chemical theory of heredity.

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The important problem of memory is treated in a new book by Dr. Paul Sollier. (*Le Problème de la Mémoire; Essai de psycho-mécanique.* Par Dr. Paul

¹*Lamarckiens et Darwiniens, Discussion de quelques théories sur la formation des espèces* Par Félix Le Dantec. Paris: F. Alcan. 1899. Pages, 191. Price, 2 fr. 50.