

BOOK NOTICES.

Mr. John M. Colaw, associate editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly*, and Mr. J. K. Ellwood, principal of the Colfax Public School, of Pittsburg, Pa., have also been essaying something recently in the way of elementary arithmetics on the inductive plan, and we are just now in receipt of two volumes from their pen, (1) *A Primary Book of School Arithmetic* and (2) *An Advanced Book of School Arithmetic*, published by the B. F. Johnson Publishing Co., of Richmond, Va. The appearance of the books, both as to illustrations and as to didactic mechanism, resembles Mr. Speer's *Arithmetics*, Mr. Campbell's *Observational Geometry*, and Professor Hanus's *Geometry in the Grammar School*, all of which were reviewed in *The Open Court* for October. But they are in some respects more conservative than Mr. Speer, for example, and cling rather to the old style and principles of exposition. As to the *Advanced Book*, there is little to be said concerning it, save that the equation is introduced, the chapters on commercial arithmetic are modernised, the principles of elementary mensuration experimentally deduced, and a brief introduction to algebra added as an appendix. The *Primary Book* makes considerable use of experimental methods, beginning with considerations of form, counting by natural number-pictures, fagots, money, etc., measuring by rulers, tape-lines, liquid measures, etc. In fact, all the most important of the devices of modern inductive pedagogy have been exploited for this little volume, which, if anything, is, we think, superior in its conception to the so-called *Advanced Book*.

More animated appreciations of the great personages of English Literature and their environment than Mr. Elbert Hubbard's *Little Journeys to the Homes of English Authors* could scarcely be imagined. They are instinct with wit and with trenchant, even unbridled, criticism of life, and never fail to hold the attention, if not to engage the assent, of the reader. Take for instance these opening paragraphs from *John Milton*: "The father of John Milton might have known Shakespeare—might have dined with him at the 'Mermaid,' played skittles with him on Hampstead Heath, fished with him from the same boat in the river at Richmond; and John Milton, the lawyer, might have discreetly schemed for passes to the 'Globe' and gone with his boy John, Junior, to see 'As You Like It' played, with the Master himself in the rôle of old Adam. Bread Street was just off Cheapside, where the Mermaid Tavern stood, and where Beaumont, Fletcher, Ben Jonson and other roysterers often lingered and made the midnight echo with their mirth. In all probability, John Milton, Senior, father of John Milton, Junior, knew Shakespeare well. But the Miltons owned their home, were rich, influential, eminently respectable, attended Saint Giles Church, and really didn't care to cultivate the society of play-actors who kept bad hours, slept in the theatre, and had meal-tickets at half a dozen taverns." In the same strain are the remaining twenty-one pages—veritable miniatures of literary portraiture, and far more lasting in impression than the pictures given us in the great biographical tomes. In addition is to be noted the decidedly artistic effect of the typographical setting of the book, its antique black-face type, its title-page and initials, especially designed for it. A fine heliogravure portrait of Milton, on Japan vellum, accompanies the booklet, which is one of a monthly series, now issued by the Roycrofters, of East Aurora, N. Y., an esoteric, bean-eschewing, Pythagorean association of book-makers, celebrated for their skill and deserving of the world's encouragement. (Single numbers, 25 cents.)

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