

efforts typifying every phase of our national life, endeavors, and humor,—all here find their representation, which we should elsewhere long seek in vain.

The volume is a vast one (covering nearly nine hundred pages). Mr. Stedman would gladly have made it more eclectic,—a genuine *Treasury of American Song*, such as Palgrave gave of English lyrics, if that were possible with our one century of chaotic and youthful endeavor. But he has had a different purpose in view, namely, that of supplying "a breviary of our national poetical legacies from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries," from which the critic or historian may derive whatever conclusions he wishes. And in this he has admirably succeeded, making it a volume which every American should be proud, and will be profited, to possess.

The biographical notices, the indices of names, titles, and first lines, and the slight pictorial adornment, are also to be commended in the work.

T. J. McCORMACK.

A NEW EXPERIMENTAL GEOGRAPHY.

Something novel in the way of American geography-making has been attempted by Professor Tarr of Cornell University and Professor McMurry of Columbia University, in their *Home Geography*.¹ The book resembles, as to its exterior form, the geographical school-books of Europe, which are divided into text and atlases separately, rather than the large, flat, and unwieldy text-books in use in American schools. But it is its internal features that most attract attention, and the most prominent of these is the emphasis which is laid upon the necessity of gaining by actual experience in the home environment the basis for geographical study. Even in the acquisition of basal notions not suggested by home environment, the inductive and experimental method is followed and indications given for much interesting practical work in simple physiography. "The average pupil who has pursued geography for a year, has little notion of the great importance of soil, of what a mountain or a river really is, of the value of good trade routes, and why a vessel cannot find harbor wherever it will cast anchor along the coast. Yet such ideas are the proper basis for the study of geography in the higher grades. The fact that they are so often wanting is proof that our geography still lacks foundation."

The first 110 pages of the book have accordingly been devoted by the authors to supplying this foundation "by treating first such common things as soil, hills, valleys, industries, climate, and government, which are part of every child's environment, and secondly other features, as mountains, rivers, lakes, and the ocean, which, although absent from many localities, are still necessary as a preparation for later study." This part of their work has been done very practically and skillfully. The photographic illustrations, which show the origin and formation of the soil, the contour, setting, function, etc., of rivers, hills, mountains, and valleys, the methods, mechanism, and conditions of industry, commerce, and government,

¹ *Tarr & McMurry's Geographies. First Book: Home Geography and the Earth as a Whole*, By Ralph S. Tarr, B. S., F. G. S. A., Professor of Dynamic Geology and Physical Geography at Cornell University, and F. M. McMurry, Ph.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University. With many colored maps and numerous illustrations, chiefly photographs of actual scenes. New York: The Macmillan Company. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1900. Pages, xiii, 279.

have all been well selected. The paragraphs on the meaning of maps also are good.

The second part of the work treats in brief manner of the earth as a whole, by like fruitful methods. The illustrations in this part are in the main physiographic, biological, and ethnological. They form a very essential part of the book, and carry with them as much instruction as the text itself. The maps, while small, are clear and well conceived; they are not overloaded by useless details, and while all persons will not be inclined to concede to them the superlative merit which the authors claim, they are certainly for practical purposes an improvement on the traditional cartographical products. In the statistics given in the appendix, there is a discrepancy between the figures representing the area of North America in square miles and those representing the total area of its component states. The area of North America is given as only six and one half million square miles, while the total area of the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Central America by actual addition foots up to more than eight million square miles. T. J. McC.

BOOK NOTICES.

ERNST HAECKEL, EIN LEBENSBIKD. By *Wilhelm Bölsche*. Dresden and Leipsic: Verlag von Carl Reissner. 1900, Pages, 259.

Wilhelm Bölsche's excellent biography of Ernst Haeckel is one of the volumes of a series of biographical portraits called *Men of the Period*. Krupp, Nansen, Nietzsche, Liszt, Windthorst, Forschenbeck, and Stephan form the other numbers of the series. Each volume is provided with a good portrait. Haeckel's career is exceedingly interesting from a human as well as from a scientific point of view; it has been spent in the very thick of the great intellectual contests of the period, and is representative and characteristic in every way. And as to Mr. Bölsche's portrayal of his achievements, it may be said to be in every respect satisfactory, and quite worthy of its subject.

It seems rather odd that a mathematical text-book written by a native of India should possess such merits "as to entitle it when introduced into England with suitable modifications and additions to a unique position among English school-books"; yet such is the case, say Mr. William Briggs and Mr. G. H. Bryan, editors of the University Tutorial Series, which has for its purpose tuition by correspondence and preparation for the examinations of the University of London. These gentlemen, who are the authors or editors of several practical scientific and mathematical school-books, have taken the *Algebra* of an Indian professor, Radhakrishnan, which has been characterised as "a Chrystal for beginners," and by the addition of chapters on logarithms, interest, graphical representation, continued fractions, etc., have adapted the same to instruction in English and American schools. The work, which consists of two volumes, is particularly fitted for the purpose of independent study. The text is ample, the explanations and examples are full, the typography is clear. In Part II., *The Advanced Course*, which we now have before us, modern ideas of algebraic form have been sufficiently interwoven with the prevailing method of presentation to make the work superior to the ordinary run of algebraical text-books. The essential elements of Chrystal's work have been reproduced in the chapters treating of zero and infinity,