

which could not but have thrilled with rapture the heart of a professor of prehistoric lore, and logically have led to his fathering the book. "It is long," says Professor Starr, "since I have read a book in Physical Science which has given me so much pleasure," and we should be the last, by *our* animadversions, to deprive others of the same joy. Never were folklore and physics more happily blended. (Pp., 202. Cloth, \$1.25.)

Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., of New York, have recently issued a neat edition of Ralph Waldo Trine's three booklets: (1) *The Greatest Thing Ever Known*, (2) *Every Living Creature*, and (3) *Character-Building Thought Power*. Mr. Trine's books have been successful from the point of view of circulation, and appeal strongly to the semi-scientific and mystical tendencies of present-day thought. Amid most outspoken doctrines of Christian Science and Mental Healing will be found such ethical and psychological truths as the following: "A thought—good or evil—an act, in time a habit, so runs life's law,—what you live in your thought-world, that sooner or later you will find objectified in your life." (Pages, 82, 85, and 51 respectively. Price, each, 35 cents.)

NOTES.

We have learned with deep regret of the death of Prof. John Fiske of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Professor Fiske was an original and fearless thinker and did much to disseminate sound evolutionary thought in our country at a time when the reigning influences were decidedly hostile to it. The chief works of his which contributed to this end were *Myths and Myth-Makers* (1872), *Cosmic Philosophy* (1874), and *The Unseen World* (1876). Fiske's highest aspiration was the chair of philosophy at Harvard, but the time was not ripe and he failed to receive the appointment, although he was specially fitted for the place by his natural bent, his talents, his preparatory studies and the high achievements of his pen. He was suspected of being too liberal and so he was disappointed. He subsequently devoted himself with great success to the study of American history, and produced works in this field which betokened the highest impartiality and critical power, and which have been very effective in offsetting the ridiculous Chauvinism and braggadocio that characterised the current standard expositions of this subject prior to his labors. But in this field too he failed to find the official recognition which he would have most highly appreciated, a university position as professor of history, although that higher recognition which comes from the appreciation of thinkers and readers at large fell in both instances to his share. The titles of his main historical productions and text-books are as follows: *The Beginnings of New England* (1889), *The Discovery of America* (1892), *The American Revolution* (1891), *Critical Period of American History, 1783 to '89* (1888), and *Civil Government in the United States*. Other works of Professor Fiske are *Excursions of an Evolutionist* (1883) and *The Idea of God* (1885). Professor Fiske's labors and interests were very comprehensive, and his productions were invariably marked by erudition and critique.

The article on Burmese Temples in the present *Open Court* was written especially for our pages by Dr. Grünwedel, an officer of the great Ethnological Museum of Berlin, which corresponds to our Bureau of Ethnology in Washington; and the photographs were obtained for us by Dr. Huth from Herr Thomann's own collection. To all these gentlemen we wish to publicly express our thanks here.