

Schools, and the Book of the Great Decease, they rank among those prime documents of the religion around which all recensions rally.

ALBERT J. EDMUNDS.

### A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Mr. Edwin Herbert Lewis has rendered a distinct service to the cause of education in the compilation of his admirable *Introduction to the Study of Literature, for the Use of Secondary and Graded Schools*. (New York: The Macmillan Co. Pages, 410. Price, \$1.00.) His guiding principle has been "That literature ought to serve as a prime agency in the education of the emotions, and indirectly, of the will. . . . If the study of English during the adolescent age is merely formal, the student loses one of the best influences that the school can ever give him." In saying this, the author would not underestimate the ethical or commercial value of formal training in composition; he would still insist upon Spartan severity with regard to everything that affects the outward forms of writing and speech; but the attaining of the desired end by Spartan methods, which end is the arousing of an unconstrained love for noble literature, is almost a hopeless undertaking; and "Gradgrind and enemy of Gradgrind he must be within the same hour."

In the selection of literature for reading in secondary schools the second principle has been that the natural interests of the student, and not the chronological order, should be consulted. To discover what these natural interests are, the experience of school-boys of various ages who have been allowed to browse in good libraries has been consulted, and as the result partly of such experimenting, as interpreted and supplemented by the author's own judgment, observation, and theory, the present volume has been offered "as a tentative body of lyrics, ballads, and short stories." The material has been drawn mostly from nineteenth century authors. The works are grouped by subjects, and bear such titles as "The Nobility of Animals," containing selections from such authors as Browning and Scott; "The Heroism of War," containing selections from Tennyson, Sir Francis Hastings Doyle, Kipling, Gerald Massey, Stevenson, Eggleston, Whittier, and Emerson; "The Heroism of Peace," with selections from Walt Whitman, Longfellow, Kingsley, Lowell, A. Conan Doyle, and Tennyson; "The Athlete," with selections from Byron, Lefroy, Blackmore, Blackie, Poe, Franklin, and Jeffries; "The Adventurer," represented by pieces from Longfellow, Tennyson, and Stanley; "The Hearth," with selections from Kingsley, the Bible, Matthew Arnold, and Landor. "The Morning Landscape," "the Gentleman," "Wit and Humor," and "The Far Goal," complete the list of titles. An introduction is prefixed to each chapter, with the aim of pointing out the thread of meaning common to all the pieces. The reading of Homer, Cooper, and Shakespeare is recommended at certain stages, and the poems which should be read aloud, and which are especially good for learning by heart, are indicated. A chronological table of British and American authors has been appended to the volume.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

LIFE, DEATH, AND IMMORTALITY. With Kindred Essays. By *William M. Bryant*, M. A., LL. D., Instructor in Psychology and Ethics, St. Louis Normal and High School. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co. 1898. Pages, vi, 442. Price, \$1.75,

The common theme for the essays comprised in this volume is the religious