

problems similar to our own ; and to explain how they thought that they had solved those problems." Not claiming to write a history of American diplomacy, and not recording many controversies of import nor discussing many essential principles of international politics, the author has sought to recount the development of certain characteristic phases of American foreign relations, and of the methods of American diplomacy in dealing with them. An excellent working bibliography of American diplomacy, diplomatic history, and general histories, as well as of treatises, and monographs on international law, of treaties, official indexes, official collections, cases in the Federal courts, official correspondence, foreign correspondence, manuscripts etc. has been added. (New York : Macmillan. 1901. Pp., xi, 307. \$1.50.)

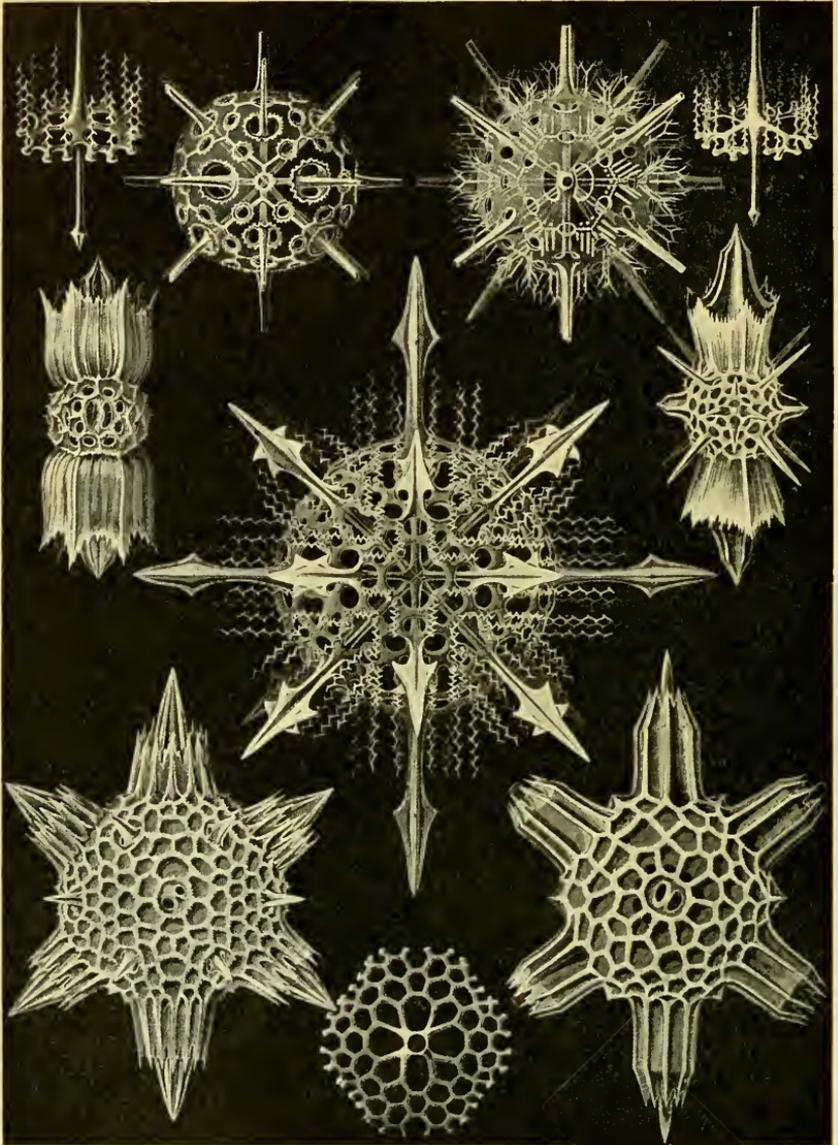
Mention has before been made in *The Open Court* of the admirable collection of readings entitled *American History Told by Contemporaries*, which is now completed with the issuance of the fourth volume, *The Welding of the Nation, 1845-1900*. The ground covered by the present book begins with the Mexican War and the consequent renewal of the Slavery contest, and then leads through the exciting "Fifties." The Civil War is also treated in detail ; its causes, conditions, and progress being discussed by the participants, both civil and military, with directness and cogency. It must be remembered that the contents of these volumes are without exception the records of contemporaries, taken from such sources as the Debates of Congress, the House and Senate Reports, executive documents, and the records of the Union and Confederate armies, presidential messages, the speeches and essays of politicians, publicists, and military experts, private journals and diaries, newspapers, works of poets, etc., etc. The period of Reconstruction is also illustrated here, together with that since 1875, which includes the recent history of our political affairs, commerce, finances and currency, foreign relations, the Spanish War, questions of colonisation, and the pressing social problems. Volume IV. contains an excellent index of the entire work, and though containing but 732 pages costs but two dollars. The titles of the previous volumes, all of which have been compiled by Prof. Hart of Harvard, are : *Era of Colonisation, 1492-1689*; *Building of the Republic, 1689-1783*; and *National Expansion, 1783-1845*. (New York : The Macmillan Co. Price, \$2.00 each.)

The political, industrial, social, and intellectual history of the various states of the Union are occupying now a goodly portion of the attention of special workers in political science, and several of these subjects have already been taken as themes for dissertations for the degree of doctor of philosophy, notably in Columbia University, New York. The most recent attempt of this character is that entitled : *Maryland as a Proprietary Province*, by Newton D. Mereness, who is of the opinion that "In no other place upon this American continent is there to be found so good an example of a people who, after a struggle of nearly a century and a half, made the transition from a monarchical government to a 'government of the people, for the people, and by the people' as in Maryland; and the attempt has been made in this book to enable the reader to enter into the experience of that people engaged in that struggle." Our colonial, and in fact our entire national history, of which the sources are of great extent and difficulty, are rapidly being made accessible to inquirers by such books. (New York : The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pages, xx, 530. Price, \$3.00.)

HAECKEL'S WORK ON THE ARTISTIC FORMS OF NATURE.

Ernst Haeckel is not only one of the most celebrated naturalists of the world, known for his championship of Darwinism in its earliest days in Germany and for

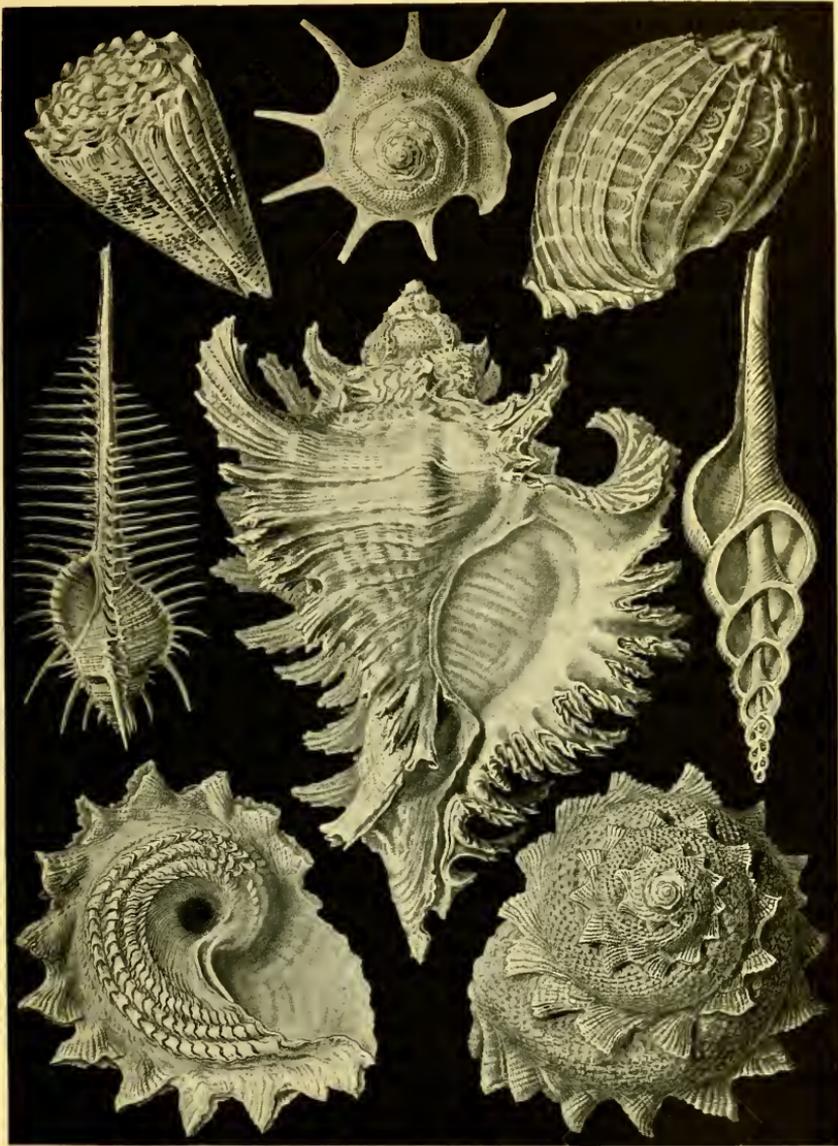
his rich personal contributions to the theory of evolution and of biology in general; he is further not only a protagonist of freedom of thought, action, and speech in all



ACANTHOPHRACTÆ. From the Animate Wonderland. (Haeckel's *Artistic Forms in Nature*.)

its forms; but he is also an artist, or at least is endowed with a goodly portion of artistic taste. He not only sees the hidden meaning of things, he sees also their

hidden beauty. He has not only contributed his share toward deciphering the riddles of the universe, but he has also a keen appreciation of the wondrous beauty



POSOBRANCHIA. Specimens of beautiful snail-shells. (Haeckel's *Artistic Forms in Nature*.)

of the myriad forms of life in nature. His new and elegant work, therefore, *Kunstformen der Natur* (*Artistic Forms in Nature*), which has been sumptuously

published by the celebrated Bibliographisches Institut of Leipzig and Vienna,¹ will be gladly welcomed by the public. It consists of a collection of large colored plates and photogravures which, though drawn with the painstaking care and exactitude of a naturalist, nevertheless exhibit the marvellous harmony of the works of nature and the inexhaustible wealth of her formations. It is impossible for us to reproduce any of the colored plates of the work, but an approximate idea of its attractiveness may be obtained from the reduced reproductions of two of the photogravures which we have selected.

The first plate is a reproduction of several typical specimens of the Acanthophractæ, a suborder of acantharian radiolarians, or animals having a skeleton of twenty radial spicules (regularly distributed about the center according to the wonderful icosocanthous law), and a fenestrated or solid shell around a central capsule, formed by connected transverse processes. The Acanthophractæ belong to the most marvellous and interesting formations which the unicellular protist organisms exhibit. The interlacings are remarkably beautiful from the point of view of symmetry, and the lattice-work of the skeletal parts is particularly effective.

The second plate is a reproduction of some of the most beautiful specimens of the shells of the Prosobranchia, a sub-class of gastropods (a species of snails) with comb-like gills in front of the heart. The shells are asymmetric, enabling the inhabitants to withdraw entirely into their interior. These snails are distinguished by their size, beauty of form, and variegated coloring.

LEON MARILLIER.

Those interested in the science of religion, and especially those who are turning their attention to primitive cults, feel that they have suffered an irreparable loss in the death, on October 15th, of M. Léon Marillier, professor of the religion of uncivilised peoples at the École des Hautes-Études, Paris, and joint editor with Jean Réville of the *Revue de l'histoire des religions*.

M. Marillier has justly gained a world-wide reputation as a wise and thorough student of religion. Born in Brittany only 38 years ago, he had not yet reached the zenith of his usefulness. It was my privilege to attend his lectures and work under his direction during the year 1897—1898. The two subjects discussed were Marriage Rites and Human Sacrifices among uncivilised peoples. The fact that his lectures on Human Sacrifices, given two hours a week during the year, were confined to the Africans of the West Coast is an index of the thoroughness with which his work was done. His method was to present the raw material before the students and criticise in their presence, weighing the reports and the authority of the writers until the student felt that she was sharing the work of his private study. His pupils learned from him methods of investigation even more than facts. The subjects of his lectures were not popular, and the attendance seldom exceeded three during the year of my stay; sometimes I have been the only auditor; but even then Monsieur Marillier spoke with such vigor and volume as would have been appropriate for a room full of people. The professor always held the floor during the lecture hour. Questions and discussions were reserved to a later and private audience, even when there was but one auditor.

Physically, Professor Marillier was more of the German than French type,—tall and heavily built, of light complexion, with full face and sandy whiskers. His graciousness of manner, however, showed him to be a Frenchman.

¹ Issued in installments at three marks each.