

And who knows what is shut within,  
The space beyond this House of Sin?

Then, let us, faithful to the trust,  
Of Life, play well, as play we must,—  
And when the Prompter gives the cue,  
Just do the best that we can do.

LOLLIE BELLE WYLIE.

### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE AMERICAN FEDERAL STATE. A Text-Book in Civics for High Schools and Academies. By *Roscoe Lewis Ashley, A. M.* New York: The Macmillan Co. 1902. Pages, xlv, 599.

Six hundred pages would appear to be considerable space to devote to a high school text-book of civics, and Mr. Ashley's new book might be adjudged a more appropriate manual for a college than for an academy. But if it is voluminous it is also complete, and what with the references to the extensive literature on the subject and the various suggestions for work and study which it contains, it will not be found unwieldy; and besides, the author has indicated what parts of the book can be judiciously omitted. As to its general scope, it "is intended not only to describe the organisation and work of the different American governments, but to make prominent the relation of its citizens to the governments and to each other. It has been thought that this could be done best by considering the subject from the standpoint of the *State*: that is, of the whole body of citizens considered as an organised unit rather than from the point of view of government or of the individual citizen. This made it necessary, first, to explain some of the more important principles of political science with practical applications; second, to show how the American Federal State became what it is; third, to describe the national, state (commonwealth), and local governments; and, fourth, to give some idea of the policies of the State in regard to great public questions and of the problems that confront it."

THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS IN THE HIGHER SCHOOLS OF PRUSSIA. By *J. W. A. Young*, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of the Pedagogy of Mathematics in the University of Chicago. New York, London, and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co. 1900. Pp., 141.

Much salutary and needed information on the educational problem may be derived from Dr. Young's book. Dr. Young has spent "nearly an entire academic year in examining the outcome" of the Prussian study of educational problems, particularly with regard to the teaching of mathematics. He finds that "in the work in mathematics done in the nine years from the age of nine on, we Americans accomplish no more than the Prussians, while we give to this work about seven-fourths (1.72) times as large a fraction of the total time of instruction as do the Prussians." This great disparity, not only in the department of mathematics but in all departments, is attributable to the fact that Prussia does not secure this greater quantity of instruction by requiring her teachers to teach more hours, but by providing more and better teachers, by paying them well, and by securing them against the possibility of disaster and misfortune in sickness and old age.

The requirements for teachers' certificates are severe; the applicants must have completed a course in the Gymnasium and have studied three years in a German university, taking a special state examination in addition to the school and university examination. After this examination, the candidate must devote a year to the study of the art of teaching, and still another to a trial year in the actual practice of teaching. Thus, a minimum of five years of special preparation is required of every one who would become eligible to an appointment as teacher in a Prussian high school. The incomes of the teachers as compared with those of non-pensioned teachers in America range in Berlin from \$1,088 to \$1,880; and considering the differences in the purchasing power of money in the two countries, the incomes will be equivalent in America to a range from \$1,451 to \$2,507 per annum,—for work corresponding to that done in the grades below the high schools (five years), in the high schools (three years), and in the freshman year in college.

The causes of the superiority of the Prussian system would seem to lie (1) in the central legislation and supervision; (2) the preparation and status of the teachers; (3) the methods of instruction. In all cases in Prussia "the actual authority, legislative as well as administrative, is vested in experienced educators." The course is continuous and under the same direction, and not as with us in three distinct and ununified systems.

The way in which reform is to proceed in this respect is very apparent from Dr. Young's work. μ.

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For various reasons, but principally because it was a failure, and because it was associated with the name of a traitor, Arnold's expedition to Quebec has never received adequate treatment in the history of America. It has been reserved for John Codman, 2nd, to devote a volume of over 300 pages to the subject and to place it in its right historical setting. The author has had the advantage of having followed on foot or in canoes the army's course through the Kennebec, Dead River, and Chaudière regions, and his treatment of the subject, especially in its local coloring, may be expected to be authentic. The book is adorned with contemporaneous portraits of Arnold, Capt. Daniel Morgan, and Gen. Richard Montgomery. There are photographs of the remains of Ft. Halifax, a view of Mt. Bigelow, of the Falls of Sault on the Chaudière, etc. (*Arnold's Expedition to Quebec*. New York: The Macmillan Co. Pages, ix, 340. Price, \$1.75.)

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Miss Jeanne G. Pennington has compiled another little volume for Fords, Howard & Hulbert's "Nugget Series." The title of the present volume is "Good Cheer Nuggets," or "Bits of Ore from Rich Mines." The writers from whom the passages have been chosen are Maeterlinck, Joseph Le Conte, Victor Hugo, and Horatio W. Dresser,—a rather odd combination, but none the less valuable. (New York: Fords, Howard & Hulbert. Pages, v, 112. Price, cloth, 45 cents; crimson leather, gilt edges, \$1.00.)

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The *Gakuto* (The Beacon Light of Science) is a Japanese monthly which is devoted to the propaganda for a scientific world-conception. The January number contains the opinions of seventy-three Japanese scholars of prominence in reply to the editor's question as to what they regard as the nineteenth century master work. For the convenience of foreign readers the names of contributors are transcribed. It proves the influence of Western thought upon the Japanese mind and indicates the progressive attitude of the Japanese perhaps better than appears in their military success in the recent China war.

Prof. Hermann Schubert of Hamburg has discovered that on April 28, at 10:40 A. M., mankind will have to celebrate the lapse of one milliard minutes since the birth of Christ, or, to speak more accurately, since the moment with which the Christian Era began, viz., the first of January, of the first year after Christ's birth, counting from the moment at which we are in the habit of beginning the day.

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Henri de Ladevèze is the *nom de plume* of a French gentleman who lives in Nice, France. We have just learned that he is not a Catholic, but a Protestant. He defends the Jesuits, he says, entirely from love of truth and justice. The article was written some time before the law *des Associations* was passed in France. It is owing merely to a fortuitous concurrence of circumstances, upon which the author tells us he now congratulates himself, that the publication of his article was delayed until the beginning of this year.

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In connection with the discussions of the taxation question in the last number of *The Open Court*, it may be interesting for our readers to learn that an experiment which its founders claim is no longer an experiment has been made at Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama, of establishing a "Single Tax Colony," which is the only one at present existing in the world. The colony has been in existence seven years, and it is claimed by its members to be prospering. The Single Tax is applied by joint ownership of the land, and leasing it to individuals at an annually appraised rental which shall equalise the varying advantages of location and natural qualities of different tracts. This rent is in lieu of all other charges,—even the state and county taxes, on not only the land and improvements, but personal property as well, being paid out of it and the balance expended—as local taxes elsewhere are—for public purposes.

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Prof. T. W. Rhys Davids, in his article "Recent Discoveries Concerning the Buddha," published in *The Century Magazine* for April, referring to the inscriptions found on a vase in the Buddha sarcophagus of the Sâkya Tumulus, on Mr. Peppé's territory, mentions the interesting fact that the most ancient Indian script has been imported from the Sumero-Accadians. He says: "It has recently been proved that an alphabet, introduced from Babylon or founded on Babylonian script, was in general use in India, for inscriptions and short communications, at least as early as the seventh century B. C. The letters on the Peppé vase are closely related to, and some of them identical with, those on the Moabite stone, the discovery of which, on the borders of Palestine, made so great a sensation only a few years ago. This strange and interesting fact gives fresh support to the hypothesis, now rapidly gaining adherents, that all the forms of writing in the world may eventually come to be traced back to the inventive genius of that white race, older than the Aryans, whose blood flows in the veins of the modern Chinese."