

great part of them, were originally composed by collaborators; and thirdly, that they in part or in whole were corrected, revised, and added to by a person or persons other than William Shaksper."

The first point is proved mainly by the facts (1) that Shaksper's name is not even mentioned in the *Diary* of Philip Henslowe, the principal theatre-manager in London, and the man who secured the services of the best playwrights of the time for English audiences, while this same *Diary* does contain the record of a dozen or more plays with titles analogous to the Shakespeare plays, as being purchased from two or more playwrights of the time; (2) that he left no letters or fragments to indicate that he was accustomed to writing, that he possessed no library, and gave his children no education whatever; and (3) that his signature proves him to have been a man totally unaccustomed to writing at all.

That the plays in question were written by collaborators the author thinks conclusively proved by the fact that over 21,000 different words are used, more than three times as much as comprises the vocabulary of the most prolific writers. He is of the opinion that the plays were written by Drayton, Dekker, Monday, Webster, Chettle Heywood, Middleton, and Porter, and at least some of them were polished and reconstructed, though not originated, by Francis Bacon.

The present year has brought with it another number of *Who's Who*, that compendious biographical annual which all editors appreciate as indispensable for information about living authors. It is published by Adam and Charles Black of London who issue also other very desirable and helpful year-books. One of these is called *Who's Who Year Book*, (price 1 s., net), and is made up of tables which originally formed the nucleus of *Who's Who* before it finally developed on different lines and which were for a long time its most popular feature. These tables vary from lists of races, with dates of meetings and names of their clerks, to tables of great London preachers and leading specialists in other lines. Another helpful publication of the same firm is the *English Woman's Year Book and Directory*, edited by Emily James, (price 2s. 6d. net). The editor is the organizing secretary to the national association of women workers of Great Britain and Ireland, and the book contains comprehensive paragraphs on every conceivable occupation in which business women are to be found, with particulars in regard to duties, scope, demand, localities, necessary qualifications (educational and personal) and the average salaries relating to each.

NOTES.

The French Minister of Public Works has informed Dr. Petitjean, President of the Paris Committee for the organisation of the International Congress of Freethought which will take place at Paris on the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh of September, 1905, that the French Railway Companies will concede to members a reduction of 50 per cent. on the regular scale of prices.

It is hoped that the Railway Companies in other countries will agree to grant similar advantages.

Our frontispiece is the latest portrait of Prof. Hugo De Vries which is an art reproduction of a recent photograph.