

the absence of talent become endemic in Germany, and is dramatic life really dead among us, sixty years after Schiller? A more careful examination of this kind of works detects here and there traces of considerable power, but power untrained, unregulated, mingled with a strange awkwardness of plot and action which is fatal to the drama."

Thus we find that play writing has sadly degenerated in Germany, while novel writing is sinking in Great Britain. It seems that "universal education" does not awaken original genius; the more people there are to read the poorer is the mental aliment offered for their growth and improvement in knowledge.

#### FAITH, NOT SIGHT.

I PRESS my winding pathway home  
By faith, and not by sight,  
Through long and tangled mazes roam,  
From darkness up to light!  
But in a maze, in darkness still,  
The headlands of my hope  
Lift high for me no sun-capped hill,  
Nor shining southern slope;  
To beckon on my weary feet,  
And charm my waiting eyes,  
Earth shows no certain way-mark meet  
To guide me to the skies!  
But while I try the shadow-lands  
By ancient pilgrims trod,  
Faith comes to place my trembling hands  
Within the hands of God!  
And like a timid, trusting child,  
Led at his father's side,  
I brave the night so dark and wild,  
The world so cold and wide!  
And feel I shall not go astray,  
But singing holy psalms,  
Shall safely mount the shining way  
Into my Father's arms!

LILLIAN.

TROY FEMALE SEMINARY.—We have examined the last Report with much pleasure. One photograph of the Institution is all we have room for, but this is a deserved tribute to the Founder, which we must give.

"It is now fifty years since this institution first opened its doors to those young ladies who were desirous of receiving a generous culture, ere they entered on the duties of maturer life. In its inception it was under the charge of Mrs. Emma Willard, whose name is identified with it; and for one half the period of its existence it has been indebted to her watchful care and faithful efforts. For the remaining portion of its history, though not under her charge, it has still been an object of earnest and loving regard. It must have been with a pleasure, deep indeed, that she has watched its progress under her successors, who have conducted it since she resigned it into their hands. We trust she may long be spared to witness its continued success."

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.—We have received a copy of the "Charter" of this new College, and find the names of many estimable ladies of New York City and State in the "Act of Incorporation." That it may be greatly successful is our earnest desire, nor will we doubt that those who have so generously begun the work will sustain it.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.—These articles are accepted, and will appear as soon as we can find room: "Maud" (the other poem not needed)—"Bird Songs"—(The article entitled "Short Stories" is declined)—"Grieving"—"Our Mother"—and "Sonnet."

The following articles are not needed: "Autumn"—"Lost Hopes"—"The Bride's Ruse"—"Song"—"Carolyn Lee" (too long)—"Weary"—"The Dead"—"All is not Gold that glitters" (we should like to oblige the trio of our young friends, if the article was really worthy of their names; when they have finished their best story they will thank us for declining this)—"The Magic of a Name"—"Shells of the Ocean"—"The Dying Girl to her Mother (the writer can do better)—"Alice Lande" (too long; the author can have it returned by sending *five red stamps*: six cents due on the package)—"Looking Back"—"Thanksgiving Day"—"Retrospection"—"My first Interview with an Authoress"—"Over the River"—"First and Second"—"Two"—"At Rest"—"July Fourth"—"Angel Whispers"—and "Our Lily."

"Morning, Noon, and Night," by Zadie. No letter with MS., and therefore do not know the author's intentions.

Other articles are on hand and will be noticed next month.

Correspondents wishing replies to their communications must be careful to inclose *stamped envelopes*; also send *stamps*, if a return of rejected manuscripts is required.

## Health Department.

We take the following useful information, respecting a new and terrible disease, from that excellent work—*Hall's Journal of Health*.

#### DIPHTHERIAL DISEASE.

"Diphtheria is now a familiar household word; within a very few years, indeed, it had never been heard of by one in a million of the masses. Its fearfully sudden and fatal character, especially among children, makes it of the highest importance that those, at least, who have families should know something of its nature, its causes, its symptoms, and its cure. By examining a great many who have died of it, some general facts have been ascertained, which are of considerable practical interest. Neither chemistry nor the microscope has yet been able to determine that any particular structure of the body is uniformly invaded; nor have any characteristic lesions or destruction of parts been found. One thing, however, is certain: the whole mass of blood is corrupted, is diseased, is destitute of those elements which are necessary to health; it is of a dark, grumous, ugly appearance, filling up every vein and artery, stagnating everywhere, clogging up the whole machinery of life, oppressing the brain, and arresting the flow of nervous energy in every part of the system. No wonder, then, that it crushes out the life, in a very few hours, of feeble childhood, and of older persons who have but little constitutional force.

"The three most universally present symptoms of diphtheria in the child are: 1st, general prostration of the whole system; 2d, an instinctive carrying of the hand to the throat; 3d, an offensive breath.

"Children are almost exclusively attacked with diphtheria because it is a disease of debility—a disease which depresses every power of life—hence the weaker the subject is, the more liable to an attack. An adult has only to maintain himself, the child has to do that and to grow also; hence it has a double call for a constant supply of strength; and a very little deficit in that quality of the air which gives vitality to the blood, is



sufficient to make it a fit subject for a diphtheritic attack. The few grown persons who have diphtheria have invariably some scrofulous or other weakening element. Neither a man nor a child in really vigorous health is ever attacked with it; they only suffer who are at the time deficient in stamina—have not the proper resisting power against the inroads of disease.

"There is no evidence whatever that diphtheria is 'catching.' The matter and breath of it have been introduced in the eyes, lips, mouth, arm, etc., of physicians who have generously hazarded these experiments upon themselves, without the slightest ill effects whatever. When several members of a family are attacked, it is not because it is derived one from another, but because of similarity of constitution, habits of life, eating, drinking, air, and other surroundings. It has not as yet been established that a stranger, going into a family where there is diphtheria, takes the disease.

"The treatment is a well-ventilated room, sustaining nourishment, and strengthening remedies.

"Diphtheria is not inoculable; prevails in every climate, in all seasons, and is equally at home in the princely mansions which line the spacious and well-cleaned street, and in the houses of stenchy courts and contracted alleys. It has no fixed course, may recur any number of times, but only fastens on the scrofulous or those whose constitutions are impaired, or have poor blood; the immediate cause of attack being the breathing of a faulty or defective atmosphere."

## Literary Notices.

OWING to the immense increase in the price of books, we will not receive further orders to send by mail. It never was a source of profit to us, but generally a loss, on account of the postage we had to pay.

From PETERSON & BROTHERS, Philadelphia:—

**SHOULDER-STRAPS.** *A Novel of New York and the Army.* By Henry Morford. The author of this novel has already attained considerable reputation as a pleasing and attractive writer of sketches. His present sustained effort will not, probably, detract from that reputation, though it can scarcely be said to have added much to it. The story is finely written in parts; but, as a whole, lacks in intensity of interest, notwithstanding it exhibits in its plot a strong tendency towards the sensational school. It is in this effort at sensationalism that Mr. Morford, in our opinion, has failed. His observations are shrewd and sprightly, if not always sagacious; his satire is keen and caustic; his sentiments frequently noble and well expressed; while his delineations of character are marked by skillful touches which give evidence of their having been drawn from nature.

**SQUIRE TREVLYN'S HEIR.** By Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "Verner's Pride," "East Lynne," etc. The fertile brain and ready pen of Mrs. Wood have added another romance to the number which already bear her name. This book is in no wise inferior to those which have preceded it, to which it, in truth, bears a strong family likeness. Though possessing no extraordinary merit, it is yet worthy of the attention of all who delight in light literature; and when once begun, its interest will carry the reader to the end.

From SMITH, ENGLISH, & Co., Philadelphia:—

**THE YOUNG PARSON.** The writer of this book has

perhaps done well to remain anonymous. It is evidently a first effort, and there is a certain flippancy in its style which will not redound to the literary reputation of its author. The book pretends to no plot, and is simply a series of sketches of the first four years of a pastor's life in a country parish. Though there are many flaws in its excellence, it will not be found an entirely unprofitable book by such as choose to read it.

From GEO. W. CHILDS, Philadelphia:—

**THE LIGHT AND DARK OF THE REBELLION.** One of the many books to which the present war is giving rise, and which never lack for readers. It is a collection of miscellaneous sketches, essays, etc., all relating in a greater or less degree to our national struggle. The author has evidently had an unusual opportunity for observation.

From J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., Philadelphia:—

**O TEMPORA!** What amount of truth this pamphlet may contain one brief examination does not enable us to judge; we can answer for there being very little poetry in it.

**CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPÆDIA.** A Dictionary of Universal Knowledge for the People. Parts 64 and 65. Only 20 cents a part for this most valuable work. The only Encyclopædia published with illustrations.

From HARPER & BROTHERS, New York, through PETERSON & BROTHERS, Philadelphia:—

**ROMOLA.** *A Novel.* By George Eliot, author of "Adam Bede," etc. This lady author with a masculine *nom de plume*, has just completed her crowning effort. From depicting quiet scenes in English modern life, she has turned her attention to the past and produced a historical romance, in which figure some of the noted personages of the fifteenth century. Florence is the scene of action, and prominent among the actors is Savonarola, the monk and church reformer. Tito Melema, the hero, is an imaginary person, in whom, and in whose fate, is worked out the principle of that apparently harmless selfishness which attempts a life of ease, and avoids as far as possible all giving or receiving pain. Romola, the heroine, we scarcely expect to find greatly admired among common readers. There is a grandeur in her character which can only be appreciated by those who themselves approximate it, and which will, we fear, repel others.

**THE BIVOUAC AND THE BATTLE-FIELD; or, Campaign Sketches in Virginia and Maryland.** By George F. Noyes, Capt. U. S. Volunteers. This is a clear and concise narrative of its author's personal experience as a staff-officer in the Army of the Potomac, during the periods of its various operations, commencing with McDowell's occupation of Fredericksburg, in May, 1862, and closing with the celebrated "mud campaign" in December of the same year. As the writer confines its narrative to the relation of such incidents and events as fell under his own immediate observation, the reader need not look for grand battle pictures embracing complete views of those great contests which have rendered this portion of the story of the Army of the Potomac so memorable. Capt. Noyes, to use his own words, has sought "only to portray interior views of tent-life, common homely experiences, and the everyday personal incidents of camp and battle-field." In this he has exhibited a skillfulness that renders his volume one of the most interesting war books we have yet read.