

The condition expressed in the last sentence is one that may be regarded as essential, and only by adopting it as a guiding principle can any dictionary or cyclopædia worthy of the name be constructed. It follows from this that the various groups of subjects could not be presented with equal fulness; accordingly we find that persons and places are given a much greater amount of space than any other class. The personal names included in the volume embrace not only actual biography, but also mythology, legend, and fiction. We are chiefly concerned with the names of men of science, and, so far as can be judged from test references, few names of importance have been omitted. But even if a few omissions have been committed, it would be ungracious to condemn the work on that score; rather let us marvel at the number of names that have not been overlooked, and at the care which must have been expended in bringing so much accurate information together. Who but those that have had to investigate biographical details can understand the difficulties which crop up in the matter of dates, due to different styles of reckoning, and the differences between various authorities? It cannot be laid down that in every case the most trustworthy authority has been selected; nevertheless, there is ample evidence in the volume to show that judicious discrimination has been used.

The geographical names given include every town, place, or locality likely to be looked for by the average man; physical and political divisions of the earth; rivers, lakes, seas, &c.; and natural curiosities. In the spelling of place-names, the established usage in the language from which the name is taken has generally been accepted. In many cases, however, where the established English usage differs more or less from the native form, no general considerations can be applied. Instances of this are: Munich for the German München, Flushing for the Dutch Vlissingen, Hanover for the German Hannover. Having regard to the fact that there is a tendency to return to the native form of spelling place-names, where the difference between this form and the Anglicised orthography is slight (as in Hannover), the former has usually been taken. This seems to be a common-sense rule to follow, and it enforces the opinion of many geographers that the correct spelling of a place-name is the local one.

The general plan of the dictionary will be understood from the foregoing brief description. It only remains to be said that, as a collection of proper names, the work is the most complete one-volume cyclopædia that has ever come under our notice. No scientific society should be without the volume, and every reference library ought to have a copy on its shelves.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Varied Occupations in Weaving. By Louisa Walker. Pp. 224. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1895.)

THERE is a scientific and an artistic side to the kindergarten system of education. Froebel's graduated sets of simple apparatus, known as "gifts," are most valuable in training a child to observe and think. The first of the gifts, consisting of six wool balls, coloured respectively violet, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red,

serve to teach elementary colours; the second, consisting of a wooden cube, a sphere, and a cylinder, is used to familiarise children with geometrical forms, and with the figures presented when the objects are rotated around different axes. A number of other gifts follow these, each calculated to develop the minds of the infants for whom they are intended. So much cannot be said, however, for all the "varied occupations" which are carried on in many elementary schools. The educational value of an occupation such as that described in the book before us, lies not in the development of the mind, but in the training of the hand and eye. If the elements of kindergarten knowledge have been previously acquired by the young students, there is no harm in teaching how to weave paper mats, and to do macramé work, though our opinion is that the child might be better employed in object-lessons, which naturally follow a scientifically arranged kindergarten course. For this playing at making things is often carried too far, and leads to technical instruction being given before instruction in the broad principles inculcated by means of Froebel's early gifts. Possibly we do not fully appreciate the value of hand and eye training for children. The greatest benefit to be derived from such training seems to be the cultivation of the imitative and inventive faculties. Addition and multiplication can be taught by the weaving occupations described by Mrs. Walker, but they can be taught just as well by means of Froebel's gifts. However, the book is the outcome of twenty years' experience in kindergarten methods of teaching, and therefore should be of great service to teachers of children, even though its value, when viewed from a scientific point of view, is but little.

Horse Breeding for Farmers. By Alfred E. Pease. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1894.)

THE aim and object of this little work is to impress upon the impecunious present-day farmer the pecuniary profit which is to be derived from horse-breeding; and if the balance-sheets which Mr. Pease produces are to be relied upon, it undoubtedly constitutes a profitable pursuit. Unfortunately, however, so much depends upon the judgment, care, and skill bestowed by the individual in the purchase of suitable mares, the selection of proper sires, as well as upon the business capacity of the breeder, when the time arrives for placing the produce upon the market, that a profit on paper may readily be converted into a loss in practice. More particularly is this so in the case of the lighter breeds, such as the hunter and high-class carriage horse, whose value is largely dependent upon the thoroughness with which they have been trained and schooled. Mainly for these reasons we believe that the average farmer will be best advised to confine his horse-breeding operations to the heavier or agricultural breeds. They possess the additional advantage of being more docile, less trouble to break in, more useful to the farmer whilst young, and, finally, are more readily disposed of. The other breeds are best left to the landowners and so-called gentleman-farmer. Holding these views, we regret Mr. Pease should devote twenty pages to tracing the origin and history of the English thoroughbred, the Arab, the Barb, and other Oriental breeds.

For the rest, the book is replete with valuable information on the subject it professes to deal with, and may be cordially and unreservedly recommended to those who are inclined to try their luck in horse-breeding. To our minds, the final chapter, which treats of the ailments which horseflesh is heir to, is the least satisfactory. This is hardly to be wondered at, when we bear in mind how wide a subject is veterinary science, and how small a space Mr. Pease has devoted to its consideration.

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