

existed, but has failed also to make it in any the least degree probable that it ever existed" (p. 449).

I will, in reply, content myself here with quoting one authority only for the existence of my first stage, an authority for whom I have the highest respect, namely, Mr. McLennan himself:—"I conceive," he says, "that marriage was at first unknown;" in fact, the initial state in his system is practically the same as in mine; the differences between our views lie in the subsequent stages.

In his last essay Mr. McLennan discusses Sir Henry Maine's views on the Ancient Irish Family. The question is very complex, and those who have not Sir Henry's work by their side for reference will not find this chapter very easy to follow.

The Irish family "was anciently divided into four groups known as the 'geilfine,' 'deirbfine,' 'iarfine,' and 'indfine' divisions. . . . Within the family seventeen members were organised in four divisions, of which the junior class, known as the 'geilfine' divisions, consisted of five persons; the 'deirbfine' the second in order, the 'iarfine' the third in order, and the 'indfine' the senior of all, consisted respectively of four persons. . . . If any person was born into the 'geilfine' division, its eldest member was promoted into the 'deirbfine,' the eldest member of the 'deirbfine' passed into the 'iarfine,' the eldest member of the 'iarfine' moved into the 'indfine,' and the eldest member of the 'indfine' passed out of the organisation altogether."

A complete family therefore would be composed as follows:—

Indfine.	Iarfine.	Deirbfine.	Geilfine.	
A ₁	A ₂	A ₃	A ₄	Fathers and brothers. Sons and first cousins. Grandsons and second cousins. Great-grandsons and third cousins. Great-great-grandsons.
B ₁	B ₂	B ₃	B ₄	
C ₁	C ₂	C ₃	C ₄	
D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	
			E ₄	

On many points, however, Mr. McLennan dissents from the views of Sir H. Maine.

Sir Henry Maine, for instance, says, "The Brehon writers speak of its (the geilfine division) consisting of a father, son, grandson, great-grandson, and great-great-grandson, which is a conceivable case of geilfine relationship, though it can scarcely be a common one." Mr. McLennan, on the contrary, thinks that "it was, actually or constructively, the only one—when the division was full—*i.e.*, when all its possible members were in being."

Again, Sir Henry Maine considers this strange arrangement to be "a monument of that power of the father which is the first and greatest landmark in the course of legal history."

Mr. McLennan entirely dissents from this, and indeed after discussing Sir Henry Maine's views with ingenuity and erudition, he concludes that the objections he has brought forward "are fatal to Sir Henry Maine's account of the system. He has failed to throw light either on its purposes or its principles. He has made no single feature of it clear in the light of Roman law, and, after all his ingenious reasonings, has left its main features as mysterious as he found them."

Whatever conclusions on these subjects may ultimately be arrived at, everyone who reads Mr. McLennan's book must feel that he brings to the inquiry an immense

amount of learning, and has stated his views with great ingenuity. All students of early history will hope that he may have leisure and health to pursue his studies.

JOHN LUBBOCK

OUR BOOK SHELF

Science in Sport made Philosophy in Earnest. Edited by R. Routledge, B.Sc., F.C.S. (London: Routledge and Sons, 1877.)

THE title of this book at once recalls Dr. Paris' "Philosophy in Sport made Science in Earnest." The author, however, tells us in his preface, that the reason he has adopted so similar a title is that his original design was to re-edit Dr. Paris's well-known, but now antiquated, book; finding, however, that mere patchwork would not bring the book into harmony with the present state of science, he determined to treat the subject afresh, and the volume before us is the result of that determination. The inversion of the title is, we think, wise, though some will object to the use of the word philosophy in the sense meant by the author, and will contend that the term physics should have been employed. The graver question is whether, under any circumstances, science should be taught by sugar-sticks. Our own opinion is decidedly against all books of this kind, and there can be little doubt intelligent children prefer not being trapped into the study of any subject, but like work openly and honestly put before them. Such books as the original editions of Mrs. Marcet's "Conversations in Chemistry," or the altogether admirable "Chapters on Sound," and other little books by Miss C. A. Martineau, are the best kind of reading to put into the hands of children who wish to learn the rudiments of natural knowledge. Nevertheless, Mr. Routledge has done his work extremely well. Those who like science and a story running together, will here find a trustworthy, clear, and accurate introduction to the study of physics. W. F. B.

Mushrooms and Toadstools. By Worthington G. Smith. (London: Hardwicke and Bogue.)

THIS is a reprint in a separate form of the descriptions illustrative of two large sheets of figures of edible and poisonous fungi, with the addition of two key-plates. Not having been written and designed for separate publication, it is consequently not so complete as it might otherwise have been, and we doubt whether by itself it will prove of much service in the discrimination of good and bad fungi. Mr. Worthington Smith may be accepted as a safe and trustworthy guide, having himself suffered on one or two occasions from reckless indulgence in doubtful species; he is desirous of sparing others like sufferings, and approaches the subject fortified by experience. In conjunction with the plates this key is admirably suited to fulfil its purpose; as a separate work, we doubt whether the author himself would feel wholly satisfied. If this reprint leads to a wider acquaintance with the diagrams, which ought to find a place in every schoolroom, its reproduction in this form will fully justify the step which the publishers have taken. M. C. C.

Between the Danube and the Black Sea; or, Five Years in Bulgaria. By Henry C. Barkley, C.E. (London: John Murray, 1876.)

THIS book has not been written to take advantage of the interest in Bulgaria excited by the present crisis. Mr. Barkley really spent twelve years in Turkey—the first five commencing shortly after the Crimean war, and the other seven at a subsequent period. He was employed as an engineer in connection with a Bulgarian railway, and had ample opportunities of becoming well acquainted with the country and the people. These opportunities he took good advantage of, and in the volume before us has recorded his impressions and adventures in simple and