standpoint, especially in connection with the history and literature of Greece and Rome.

In any scientific history of civilization, the first stages, in which from rough stone implements men passed to the arts of drawing, sculpture, and the manufacture of pottery, and so to the invention of bronze and the erection of megalithic buildings, are surely of too much interest to be dismissed in a sentence or two, with an illustration of a "flint spearhead" of very peculiar appearance. To what races these men might belong we do not learn from our author, who, after observing that "modern science has also directed its attention to the subject of races and anthropology, and has issued in studies which have not, however, yet resulted in a decisive conclusion," dismisses all other races in eighteen lines, and springs on us the "white race," "whose first habitation was the highlands of Asia." "It was there that, after the deluge chronicled in the legends of all Eastern nations, mankind dispersed, and formed the three chief branches of the white race—the families of Ham, Shem, and Japhet." Thus we learn nothing about the remarkable and early civilization of the Chinese, on the ground that "the information respecting it is not sufficient." We are not, therefore, surprised that the author dismisses America with the single sentence, "In America, the copper or red race has continually receded before the Europeans, and cannot be counted amongst the civilized races." He apparently thinks there has never been but one race in America, and forgets the ancient civilization of the Aztecs, and that of the race which they themselves succeeded; and we cannot therefore hope that he will throw any light on the home of that remarkable people who carved the idols of Easter Island, or erected the megaliths of Tonga.

In the chapter on Egypt there is much interesting though somewhat disconnected information; but those who think that the arts and sciences are amongst the most important parts of civilization, will perhaps scarcely be satisfied with the statement that "the scientific theory, which would consider the pyramid a kind of observatory, is quite unfounded."

The materials for the description of the civilization of the cities of Mesopotamia are so rich that the chapter which deals with it cannot fail to be interesting; it is only to be desired that the relations of the Accadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians, and their several conditions, had been made more clear, and the great length of time, as in the case of the Egyptians, over which the same type of civilization continued, pointed out. Indeed, one of the remarkable features of ancient civilization, which has an important bearing on the antiquity of man, is its slow progress.

The account of Eastern civilization, or that of the Aryans and Hindus, is very defective. Indeed, we have little more than a short account of the tenets of Brahmanism and Buddhism, and no mention of their art, though many of the Hindu stupas and topes date back before the Christian era. There is some fair description of Persian and Phœnician civilization, but there is nothing about the Phrygians. The rock tombs of Asia Minor are unnoticed, and Troy is only mentioned in relation to the Greeks.

In contradistinction to this, the treatment of Grecian and Roman history is superabundantly full, as one sentence

will show. "The 'epithalamium' of Mallius is probably his best work, always excepting his charming lyrics to Lesbia." If a notice of so little known a poet forms part of the history of ancient civilization, it is difficult to see why the omissions above enumerated should occur.

In a word, the whole subject is unequally treated; there is a bias towards classical learning, which, in spite of the useful information given, prevents the book from being in any sense a scientific history.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Board School Laryngitis. By Greville Macdonald, M.D. Lond., Physician to the Throat Hospital, Golden Square. Pp. 31. (London: A. P. Watt, 1889.)

NUMEROUS as are the evils to which the Board School system is alleged to have given rise, we have before us yet another indictment to add to the list. This time, however, it is the teachers, and not the scholars, who compel our interest. Dr. Macdonald claims to have identified certain changes in the vocal apparatus of Board School teachers, of both sexes, of so definite a character as to enable him to state with certainty from the appearance of the throat that the patient belongs to that long-suffering class.

A varicose condition of the superficial vessels of the vocal cords and a nodular hypertrophy of the free margins are the conditions to which he calls special attention. Of the latter condition he notes that it may occur without obvious inflammatory surroundings, and quotes Stoerk's reference to it under the name of "singers' nodules." He does not, however, mention the Viennese laryngologist's explanation of them, which, in the present connection, is interesting. Stoerk claimed that these nodules were the direct result of an improper use of the voice, whereby a part only of the vocal cords was set in vibration. The nodules made their appearance at the spot intervening between the vibrating and the motionless parts of the cords, usually the junction of the anterior third with the posterior two-thirds.

Board School teachers, uninstructed for the most part as to the use of the voice, depressed by the close and often foul atmosphere of a crowded schoolroom, choked with the chalk from their blackboards, and often compelled to scream to make themselves heard above the din of an unruly class, are beset with every condition which predisposes to inflammation and over-straining of their vocal apparatus.

Dr. Macdonald suggests remedies for such a state of things, for the consideration of the ruling powers, and intimates that local treatment alone is of any avail in dealing with the changes to which he calls special attention. The varicose vessels he would destroy with the galvano cautery, and the nodules with the forceps. The monograph is written in a fluent and readable style, and treats of a subject which deserves the serious attention both of lay and professional readers. Possibly the interest of the latter class would have been more keenly aroused had the author appended a little more information as to the extent of his experience. He tells us that the Board School teachers consult him in increasing numbers, and that his success in treatment has been remarkable, but he does not quote cases, or offer any statistical record, by which his professional brethren may compare his experiences with their own in the same line of practice.

The pathological conditions to which he would affix such an attractive title are not by any means unknown as a consequence of chronic laryngitis in other walks of life, and something more than mere assertion must be offered before they can be generally accepted as the peculiar product of the Board School system.

E. CLIFFORD BEALE.