

one of the first medical libraries, if not the first, in the world, containing much more medical literature than is to be found in the libraries of the richer English corporations, the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, or of the more learned and active Societies, such as the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, or, indeed, in the British Museum or Bibliothèque Nationale. And though the Washington Library is of comparatively recent date, going back only some thirty years, yet it contains a very fine collection of books both of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; and at the same time the great difficulty of the maker of a catalogue to a modern library, viz. the immense mass of the newspaper and periodical literature of to-day, has been fairly faced and overcome. During the past year, 287 periodicals have been added to the list of those that are taken in, raising the total number to about 7500, of which at least 3900 are current. The vast aggregate of articles in these are duly catalogued, each under the head of its subject-matter. It is not surprising, therefore, that we should find 80 of these large square folio pages filled in the present volume with entries under the heading Phthisis, 78 under Puerperal Diseases, 67 under Pregnancy, and 56 under Pneumonia. Even as devoted entirely to a lesser matter like the pulse, there are catalogued 150 volumes and 350 articles in periodicals. The care with which the records of the smallest steps in the past history of medicine have been preserved is shown by the accumulation of twenty-five editions of the "Pharmacopœia" of the Royal College of Physicians of London from the years 1657 to 1851. Under such headings as Psychology, we may see the wide range also of the larger subjects embraced in the Library, for the collection under this heading begins with many expositions of Aristotle, and does not neglect Plato, but takes in also the recent books of modern authors, such as the last edition of Herbert Spencer's "Principles of Psychology" and Taine's "De l'Intelligence." The eleventh volume of this magnificent catalogue brings us to within measurable distance of the end; from the analogy of lesser works, in fact, it seems probable it may be completed in three or at most four volumes, and it will then be a great monument among modern catalogues, and in its articles under subject titles form a most valuable dictionary to all who are seeking a clue to the complete historical study of medicine and surgery.

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OUR BOOK SHELF.

Dictionary of Political Economy. Edited by R. H. Inglis Palgrave, F.R.S. Part I. Abatement—Bede. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1891.)

THIS is a first instalment of what promises to be a very valuable addition to the English library of political economy. The plan of the work is laid down on broad lines, and includes not only articles dealing with strictly economic subjects, and explanations of legal and business terms, but good (though necessarily brief) accounts of historical events bearing on economic history, such as the establishment and downfall of the *ateliers nationaux* in Paris in 1848, and biographical notices of deceased writers whose life and work has had any connection with the development of economic theory or practice. That the biographical section of the dictionary is conceived in a liberal spirit is sufficiently proved by the fact that the first part, now under review, includes notices of Addison and

Thomas Aquinas; the claim of the former to a place in a dictionary of political economy is based in the main on the fact that he held an official position in the Government of his time as one of the Lords Commissioners of Trade. This rather remote connection with economics may be open to criticism; and it remains to be seen whether Mr. Palgrave will include in his dictionary the honoured names of William Wordsworth and Robert Burns. It is not, however, desirable to say anything in the way of criticism which should tend to narrow the scope of the work. Its interest and vitality depend, to a large degree, on its broad inclusiveness.

The biographical articles are particularly well done, and we would single out that on the late Mr. Bagehot for special commendation. It gives not only the dry facts of his career, but presents a living picture of a peculiarly fascinating personality, and also a very just estimate of his place in, and services to, economic literature. Among the most important articles in the present instalment of the dictionary may be mentioned that on agricultural communities, by Prof. J. S. Nicholson, and that on banks. The former gives an admirable summary of the conditions of life in existing village communities in Russia and India, and also a digest of the results arrived at by the researches of Sir Henry Maine, Mr. Seebohm, and M. de Laveleye, as to the existence of various forms of village communities in the remote past in our own and other countries. The article on banks gives an historical sketch of the development of banking in various countries, contributed by different writers, each with special knowledge of his own portion of the subject. Thus we have brought together within the compass of a few pages an account of the land banks and the Schulze Delitsch credit banks of Germany, the savings banks (trustee and Post-office) of England, and the popular banks of Italy.

The names of the contributors to the present volume, and also those who have promised their assistance in the preparation of the rest of the work, are a guarantee of its high value to all students of social and economical subjects.

South Africa, from Arab Domination to British Rule. Edited by R. W. Murray, F.R.G.S. With Maps, &c. (London: Edward Stanford, 1891.)

ONE of the objects of this book is to bring out the contrast between Portuguese rule in South Africa and the influence exerted by England. The contrast is certainly striking enough; and it is shown most clearly, as in the present work, by a simple statement of historic facts. In the first chapter, Prof. Keane sketches the career of the Portuguese in the various South African regions they have dominated. This is followed by translations from the "Africa" of Dapper, a Dutch writer of the seventeenth century, showing that at that time the Portuguese stationed on the African coasts made no effort to acquire extensive knowledge of the interior. The editor then records the main facts relating to the Dutch and English settlements in the south, and the recent movements northward to Bechuanaland, Matabeleland, and Mashonaland. Mr. J. W. Ellerton Fry, late of the Royal Observatory, Cape Town, Lieutenant of the British South African Company's expeditionary force, gives an account of what he himself observed during the march into Mashonaland in 1890; and much information with regard to the east coast of Africa at Beira, Pungwe, and the Zambesi is presented in notes from the diary and correspondence of Mr. Neville H. Davis, late surveyor and hydrographer to the Queensland Government, who, in 1890, accompanied an expedition sent to East Africa to discover whether there was any mineral or other wealth in concessions granted by the Mozambique Company. The book has not been very systematically planned; but it brings together so many facts which are not readily accessible elsewhere, that it cannot fail to interest readers whose