

The western hill, like another Gergovia, is a natural site for a hill fort, while the descending ridge of Ophel, so far as we can infer from our studies of such structures, is exactly the position which their builders would have avoided. Such articles as "Gospels" and "Jesus" introduce us to questions of a character and a theological import which we must not discuss in these columns. Suffice it to say that, while indicating a certain amount of reaction from the extreme vagaries of representatives of the so-called "higher criticism," they express, as a rule, eminently "progressive" views. Some, indeed, are so very advanced that they could not, so far as we can see, be covered by the most liberal interpretation of the Nicene creed. Persons, however, who view with anxiety these removals of ancient landmarks may comfort themselves by observing how many idols of the cave have been set up by one confident discoverer only to be trampled under foot by the next comer. Indeed, on reading some of these efforts of the higher criticism we cannot help being reminded of the famous Historic Doubts, and think that by using similar methods we could prove William the Conqueror to be a person almost mythical and the Battle of Hastings mainly a legend.

T. G. B.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

- Plato's Staat.* F. Schleiermacher. Zweite Auflage. C. Th. Siebert. (1901.) Mk. 3.  
*John Locke's Versuch über den Menschlichen Verstand.* Zweiter Band. Zweite Auflage. C. Th. Siebert. (1901.) Mk. 3.  
*Berkeley's Abhandlung über die Prinzipien der Menschlichen Erkenntnis.* Dr. F. Ueberweg. Dritte Auflage. (1900.) Mk. 2.  
*Berkeley's Drei Dialoge zwischen Hylas und Philonous.* Dr. R. Richter. (Leipzig: Dürr'schen Buchhandlung, 1901.) Mk. 2.

THERE is in Germany a widespread appetite for metaphysics. Earlier there than elsewhere scholars and philosophers of an order not far removed from the highest came to recognise that work bestowed on the translation and elucidation of foreign masterpieces in philosophy was the best of trainings in exact thinking and expression. The zeal of von Kirchmann for his educational ideal was untiring, and his industry was appalling. In the result, the *Philosophische Bibliothek* has succeeded in combining low cost and high achievement. It is the more to be regretted that its volumes so often come to pieces in the hand.

Schleiermacher's translation of "Plato's Republic," with von Kirchmann's sporadic notes, "needs no bush." It will not, of course, be much used in England after the labours of Davies and Vaughan and Dr. Bosanquet. It has undergone some revision, but still scorns Greek accents, while its use of breathings is haphazard. Similarly, von Kirchmann's translation of "Locke's Essay" has undergone revision before reissue. Something of the effect of Locke's style vanishes in the translation, but the substance is there. It is only the separate volume of notes which is likely to interest the English public, and that not greatly. Ueberweg's excellent version of the masterwork of Berkeley's earlier idealism has passed into a third edition, advisedly without revision. Its incisive notes possess some value even for those who have studied their Berkeley with the aids supplied by Prof. Campbell Fraser. It has a worthy successor in Dr. Raoul Richter's translation of "Berkeley's Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous." If we have not been singularly unfortunate—or fortunate—in

our sampling, Dr. Richter has succeeded as well as the translator of Berkeley could hope to succeed. He adds a straightforward introduction and some luminous notes chiefly on the usage of technical terms. The new series is, to our thinking, superior in form, printing and, above all, in stitching, to the old. The student, for whom the reading of Kant or Hegel in the original is only a hope of the distant future, might be worse advised than to take Dr. Richter's version of the dialogues and ground himself in German philosophical terminology by reading it along with the brilliant original. An English translation of a German "minor masterpiece" at once as excellent as this and as cheap is still to seek.

H. W. B.

*The Fishes of North and Middle America; a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates, found in the Waters of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama.* By David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Evermann. Part iv. Pp. ci + 3137-3313; plates I-CCCXCII. (Washington: U. S. National Museum, 1900.)

THE present part concludes this important work, of which we have given a full notice in vol. lxi of NATURE, p. 362. It commences with a systematic arrangement of the fishes described, which serves not only as a table of contents for all the four parts, but also as an exhibition of the views of the authors as to the genetic relations of American fishes. From it it will be seen that the fish-fauna of North and Middle America, as now understood and as stated by the authors, embraces 3 classes, 30 orders, 225 families, 1113 genera, 325 subgenera, 3263 species and 133 subspecies. "Additional Addenda" follow and occupy some 60 pages; they comprise a number of new genera and species described since the publication of part iii., the majority being the result of investigations made by Dr. Jordan in Mexico, and by Dr. Evermann in Porto Rico. Other additions or corrections regarding nomenclature, relations and distribution of previously known species, are duly attended to.

The bulk of the volume is devoted to the illustrations. In this series are represented about 958 types of fishes, thus, so far as numbers are concerned, surpassing even Cuvier and Valenciennes' "Histoire naturelle des Poissons," in which only about 700 species are figured. With few exceptions, the figures are original, and were drawn for the present work from specimens preserved in American collections, and by means of photography reproduced to a uniform size, the width of an octavo page. As the work has been published by the Smithsonian Institution with the view of bringing it within the reach of the people, no highly artistic and, therefore, expensive finish of the illustrations has been attempted; but they have not lost in accuracy thereby, and will fully answer the purpose of assisting the student of ichthyology in his initial studies, or the layman who seeks for occasional information. They show well the general appearance of the fish, the structure of fins and the arrangement of scales; but scarcely any additional details are given to illustrate the characters on which the numerous genera and species distinguished or adopted by the authors are based.

The illustrations are preceded by an explanatory list, in which the names of the artists, the numbers of the original specimens in the United States National Museum, or other sources whence the drawings were derived, are carefully noted. In fact, no pains have been spared by the authors to render their work instructive and handy for reference and ready use.

Already in our first notice we have testified to the high merits of the work; it renders the rich American fish-fauna more accessible than ever before to scientific ichthyologists throughout the world, and cannot fail to give a powerful impetus to the study of fishes in the authors' own country.

A. G.