

velopments of University activity in America which Dr. Gilman selects for commendation are the growth of scientific laboratories (including observatories and surveys), the expansion of libraries, the adjustment of the claims of science and letters, the "clarification" of the idea of the University, the admission of women to the advantages of higher education, and the advancement of professional schools, especially schools of medicine and law. Dr. Gilman also notes with satisfaction the mutual growth of "sweet reasonableness" among the leaders of religious and of scientific thought. The remaining addresses on such miscellaneous subjects as "Hand-craft and Redecraft," "Greek Art in a Manufacturing Town," "Civil Service Reform and Education in Philanthropy," do not seem to call for special notice. They are all, however, animated by the same lofty enthusiasm and the same large outlook that characterise the author's "idea of the University," and of the future which it has before it in the general life of the nation.

#### A RAMBLE IN THE WEST.

*Highways and Byways in Oxford and the Cotswolds.*  
By Herbert A. Evans. Illustrated by Frederick L. Griggs. Pp. viii+407. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1905.) Price 6s.

OXFORD and its colleges are always before the world. Early Oxford, Mediæval Oxford, Stuart Oxford, Modern Oxford, it has been described over and over again in all its phases and all its moods. It has furnished the artist with unflinching inspiration, it has been the excuse for endless reminiscences, we have seen it approach "the cross-roads," and recently it has been held to account in the columns of *The Westminster Gazette*.

The author of this volume may well be pardoned if he does not write of the city at length. The few pages which he spares to it are given up for the most part to the archæology of the less visited portion to the west of the north and south artery, the quarter which centred round the castle still in existence, and the magnificent foundations of Osney and Rewley long since levelled with the dust. He does not attempt anything in the nature of a general survey. If Oxford has a place in his book it is mainly because, situated as it is, at a point where the hills from east and west most nearly meet, it is, as it were, the gate into the country whither he would lead us, the country that is bounded by the fringe of the Cotswold on the west and the Cherwell on the east, in other words the northern half of the basin of the Upper Thames. He does not claim to have described this exhaustively—he has merely tried to point out what struck him as attractive in its history and scenery, in the hope of making it seem attractive to others. That he has succeeded in so doing is certain. Whether he takes us in thought to the Cotswolds proper, to Painswick or Winchcombe or Stow on the Wold, whether he writes of the escarpment of Edgehill, or the Vale of Evesham, of the Forest of Wychwood, or of regions still nearer the city, he inspires us with the same feeling

of interest, the same desire to set out and see for ourselves.

If we have any complaint to make it is that the author has not told us more about the natural features of the district. To the fauna and flora we find only scattered allusions, e.g., to the Arion and the Acis on the hills near Barton, or the *Salvia Pratensis* in the Forest of Wychwood. Of the geology and hydrography he writes as little as possible. Like most other nations, the British are surprisingly ill acquainted with the land in which they live, but it does not follow that they are past educating.

For our own part we should have liked more than a mention of the botany of Tadmorton Heath, we should have been glad to have a general idea of the course of the Upper Thames, or the formation and lie of the Cotswolds, the more westerly portion of the great oolite sheet, which starts from the borders of Dorset and runs north-east across England to find its termination in the Yorkshire moors. On the other hand the author is generous with historical and antiquarian details. His pages are full of memories of the Civil War, of which this region was one of the chief theatres; the battles, Edgehill, Cropredy, &c., are brought clearly before our minds. He is a good raconteur, and his notes on the old families and local worthies are very good reading. The great houses (Broughton, Sudeley, Compton Wynyatts, &c.) receive full justice at his hands, while his descriptions of the churches, not only of the great wool-churches of Cirencester, Chipping Campden, &c., but of the humbler village types, are instructive, and all things considered wonderfully free from monotony.

We have no hesitation in recommending the book. It is not only attractive, but taking it as a whole it is accurate and valuable; between its covers is store both of pleasure and of profit. Like others of this series it has been illustrated by Mr. Frederick L. Griggs.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*A Manual of Geometry.* By W. D. Eggar. Pp. xxiii+325. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1906.) Price 3s. 6d.

A NEW text-book of elementary geometry by the author of the well-known "Practical Exercises in Geometry" will be eagerly welcomed. The "Manual of Geometry" is based on the earlier treatise, but the subject has been extended by the introduction of theorems side by side with the practical work. In deciding on the ground to be covered the author has been largely guided by the revised syllabuses of various examining bodies, and the manual will be found specially suited to students preparing for the Oxford and Cambridge Locals, London Matriculation, Littlego, Army and Navy Qualifying, and similar examinations.

After a short preliminary course of practical and experimental work, practice and theory proceed together. The experimental method is always prominent, being continually used in leading up inductively to the theorems. As each theorem is reached a strict deductive proof is informally and partially outlined, and the student keeps a note-book in which the theorems are entered, accompanied by a complete formal proof written out in his own words. Sets of