

inspiring Ephod, and sons of the almond-tree. This age is historically most remarkable as that of the great moral upheaval which gave birth to the wide-spread movement towards individual regeneration, and the attainment of sanctity in mind and deed, which characterised the history of the Buddha, born as the divine physician Osadha-Dhāraka, the medicine-child in the age of the Yama Devaloko, the twin-stars Gemini, when the sun entered the Ashvin constellation Gemini in January-February, about 10,700 B.C., and which continued through the next succeeding periods of his Vessantara birth in the Tusita heaven of wealth. . . . This age was, as I show, contemporaneous with that characterised in Persian and Zend history as the introduction of the religion of Zarathustra . . . during this period a wide-spread régime of active trade, under the guidance of affiliated managers in touch with the Indian trade-guilds, was extended round the world from India as the centre, to the west of Europe under the Phœnicians, and to America. During this time of universal peace the world was governed by traders and was undisturbed by tribal wars. . . ." (pp. 45, 46).

This sort of "history" is worthy of a Mahatma. We have heard it from Indian and "theosophical" lips before, and we do not believe a word of it. This age of universal peace about 10,700 B.C. "under the guidance of affiliated managers in touch with the Indian trade-guilds" is as unknown to scientific historians as Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's story of "Atlantis." It will be news to them, also, to hear that Zoroaster lived about 10,700 B.C.!

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Cyclopedia of American Agriculture. Edited by L. H. Bailey. Vol. ii., Crops. Pp. xvi+690. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1907.) Price 21s. net.

THE second volume of Dr. Bailey's "Cyclopedia" deals with the field crops of North America, and opens with some interesting chapters on the economic side of plant life in general—the control of diseases, the principles of plant breeding and introduction, seeding, and the management and preservation of the crop. Though the plants dealt with in the main section of the book include the staple farm crops of this country, one cannot but be struck with the enormous diversity of the production of the United States. Its agriculture started practically on the basis of our own, with crops characteristic of temperate and humid climates, cotton being the only early addition on a large scale; but as population spread south and west, all the products of the Mediterranean region became included, and latterly the addition of the Sandwich Islands, Cuba, and Porto Rico to its territory has brought tropical and subtropical plants into the United States list. The valuable work done by the plant introduction division of the United States Department of Agriculture finds ample recognition here; the navel orange, Egyptian strains of cotton, with the date palm, the olive, and durum wheat for the arid regions, are striking examples of successful acclimatisation, and elaborate attempts are now being made to introduce tea.

The account of any individual crop is perhaps hardly full enough to be of much value to the farmer who is already engaged in that particular industry, and American conditions of climate and labour render much of the information inapplicable to British agriculture; but this volume of the "Cyclopedia" would be of the greatest service to any settler breaking ground in

a new country, and looking round for profitable crops outside the accepted routine. As in all cyclopedias, many of the illustrations are rather trivial and pointless, but the full-page reproductions from photographs are of real value and often of beauty.

Penrose's Pictorial Annual, 1907-8. Vol. xiii. Edited by William Gamble. Pp. xvi+184. (London: A. W. Penrose and Co., Ltd., n.d.) Price 5s. net.

THIS annual has now reached its thirteenth volume, and although its predecessors have attained a very high order of excellence as regards text, illustration, and style, the present issue eclipses them all.

The volume before us is of perhaps more than usual interest, because a fundamental and important change has been made throughout the whole book. The editor, in his excellent and interesting summary of the year's work, tells us that on previous occasions the chief difficulty which became apparent in preparing these volumes was to present something conspicuously new in process work. The difficulty arose through the wonderful standard of excellence which had already been reached in photo-mechanical processes.

Owing to certain criticisms which indicated that the best effects from half-tones and three-colour blocks could only be obtained on highly-glazed paper, and with brilliant inks, and this did not comply with the canons of good art, an attempt has been made in the present volume to meet these views. The paper-maker has been asked to make a paper which should have a perfect surface without the gloss, and the ink-maker has been requested to prepare inks that would be suitable to the new kind of paper. To give the text illustrations a better chance, screens with 133 instead of 150 lines to the inch have been employed. The result of this combined effort, which is presented in these pages, is distinctly good, and throws great credit on all concerned in the endeavour. As in former years, the volume teems with a great number of excellent illustrations by various processes, and the text contains a wealth of information on allied topics.

The frontispiece is a fine heliotype reproduction from an old copper engraving, and the general appearance of the book leaves nothing to be desired.

The book should be found more useful than ever to anyone who wishes to seek the best process for book or catalogue reproduction, no matter whether the illustrations have to deal with the reproductions of oil paintings, photographs, black-and-white drawings, or such subjects as machinery, woodwork, or china.

The Education of To-morrow. By John Stewart Remington. Pp. 115. (London: Guilbert Pitman, 1907.) Price 2s. net.

"It is my honest belief," says Mr. Remington towards the end of his book, "that at the bottom of almost all British failure in business or in industry is the nightmareish, unpractical nature of British education." Though he does not appear to be familiar enough with the progress which has been made during the last ten years in devising and introducing practical methods into our schools, Mr. Remington has much to say that deserves the earnest attention of schoolmasters and educational authorities generally. "The education of to-morrow will be an education for practical men, every branch of which will have to justify itself by ultimate usefulness." He combats successfully the common criticism that this would be to make education merely utilitarian and to ignore the need for culture. To foster in public schoolboys the belief that "the best people" cannot go in for trade, he describes as "suicidal." Altogether the little book provides much material for