

libraries—if exchange is permitted—for the present list shows that the library contains many serials which have no biological significance.

*Eleutheros, or the Future of the Public Schools: a Desultory Dialogue.* By J. F. Roxburgh. (To-day and To-morrow Series.) Pp. 94. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 2s. 6d. net.

FOR several decades, educational reform has made enormous strides, with the result that the old established public schools of Britain have had their full share of the spotlight. The same era has seen many profound changes in these schools. Dr. Roxburgh, himself the headmaster of one of our public schools, has emphasised the aims of public school education in a remarkable manner. He has followed this up by defending these endeavours, and finally attempted to prove that such schools are the best.

Any attempt to criticise Dr. Roxburgh's efforts might leave an erroneous impression of the critic's bias against the methods which exist in our public schools. This would be unfortunate, for, whatever views the educationist may hold of the value of a public school education, he must agree that, in these days of uniformity and communism of method, it is refreshing to see that the public schools, in their independence, retain their personality and individuality. The author makes much of this point. However, one can neither dogmatise nor generalise in education. Wide views must be taken, and here the book is at fault, for a very narrow view of the subject has been assumed. To state, as the author does, that men who never went to anything but an elementary school were therefore never educated after fourteen, is a grave injustice to our State education.

We may or we may not agree with the tenets propounded in the book; but it is well worth reading, for the author has adopted the age-old dialogue style. This, at any rate, enables us to maintain an interrogative interest, thus continually asking ourselves, 'Are we agreed?'

*Romance of the Machine.* By Michael Pupin. Pp. v + 111. (New York and London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1930.) 4s. 6d. net.

MORE than fifty years ago, Prof. Pupin arrived in New York from Serbia, a mere boy unacquainted with the English language and almost penniless; to-day he enjoys both wealth and distinction. Like thousands of others from the Old World, he found the United States to be the land of opportunities of which he was not slow to take advantage. Supporting himself by lessons in wrestling and boxing, he entered on a course of study which ultimately led him to a chair in Columbia University. With teaching he combined invention, and he is known for one of the greatest improvements in telephony.

With Prof. Pupin's success has come an unflinching admiration for the constitution and ideals of the country of his adoption, and in the little book under notice he takes up the cudgels against the critics of 'machine civilisation'; endeavours

to show how the telegraph, the telephone, broadcasting, and the automobile have assisted in the "Consolidation of the Union"; and tells us something of the telephone industry, "the largest and most perfectly co-ordinated industrial organisation in the world". His picture of "the roads blocked for many miles", which "makes one believe that every family in New York has an automobile, and that they are all out for a pleasure drive", will not appeal to all alike, but we are at one with Prof. Pupin in his hope that the telephone, the telegraph, the vacuum-tube oscillator, and the aeroplane "will aid in the art of cultivating international friendships". As for America's share in discovery, we like to recall Lord Playfair's remark that "science has no country though its investigators have birthplaces".

*A Hundred Years of Publishing: being the Story of Chapman and Hall, Ltd.* By Arthur Waugh. Pp. xvii + 326 + 50 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1930.) 15s. net.

DICKENS, Trollope, and Carlyle, with Meredith figuring both as client of and reader to the house of Chapman and Hall—these are the names which will attract lovers of books to this work. The story of Dickens's relations with his publishers and of his love of gain at a time when he was in comfortable circumstances is a painful one. Mr. Waugh's narrative, however, is written in a large spirit of charity and forbearance towards all who served the firm whether as clients, clerks, readers, or managers.

The work, which is well illustrated with portraits and facsimiles, is not a mere chronicle of the output and fortunes of the firm. It is relieved by disquisitions on the successive changes which have taken place in the book trade from the time when publisher and bookseller were one down to present-day conditions. Within this period revolutionary changes have taken place, and the organisation of the publishing trade has become more complex and its business more speculative. The costs of publication have materially increased, and these costs cannot in all cases be passed on to the public in the shape of correspondingly enhanced prices. The chapters dealing with the new phases of publishing and book distribution are based upon competent authorities and add considerably to the value of the book. The work will be read with interest, and should find a permanent place upon the shelves of all concerned in the history of book production.

*A Bibliography of Persia.* By Lieut.-Col. Sir Arnold Wilson. Pp. x + 253. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1930.) 20s. net.

WHEN Lord Curzon published his classical volumes upon "Persia and the Persian Question", it was his intention to add a third volume dealing with the bibliography of works about that country, but for obvious reasons this intention was never carried out. Sir Arnold Wilson has now partly supplied the desideratum by assembling in alphabetical order the names of the authors of some 6500 titles, including translations in European languages of original