

Resist the first attempt of the electro-biologist, and it seems you will be safe for life! Yield ever so little, and your case is hopeless! There is also another piece of advice which may often be found useful, and which is so peculiar that we cannot forbear quoting it, for the benefit of those who may wish to ensure the obedience of their footmen.—Hugh, wishing Mr. Elton's old butler to do him a service, "had fixed him with his eyes before he began to explain his wishes. He had found out that this was the best way of securing attention from inferior natures, and that it is especially necessary with *London servants*. It is the only way a man without a carriage has to command attention from such!" This is indeed making a very practical use of mesmerism. We shall soon have a little handbook of 'Electro-Biology for the Million.' Stare hard at the housemaid before you ask her to dust the room; quell the cook with a glance if you wish the dinner to be properly dressed; but, above all, take care to "cow the superciliousness" of your footman, if you ever expect him to open the door, or put some coals on the fire, when you desire him to do so.

But to return to the victim of the tale, poor Euphra. The tutor is dismissed rather unceremoniously, on account of the missing ring, which Mr. Arnold had entrusted to him; and Euphra, who really is attached to him, becomes a victim to shame and remorse. She has also dislocated her ankle, which, however, by no means prevents her tyrant from causing her to meet him in the avenue whenever he wishes it (though she is incapable, on common occasions, of putting her foot to the ground). She comes to London, and Margaret (who has also the power of mesmerizing, though, of course, she uses it only for the best purposes) insists upon Euphra resisting the Count's attraction—holds her down in bed, catches her on the stairs and carries her back by force,—and succeeds at last in releasing the wretched woman from her painful bondage. Euphra, in a state of clairvoyance, finds out the Count's hiding-place, and describes it so accurately that Hugh is enabled to trace him out and obtain the lost ring. Euphra dies from the effects of her terrible struggle against the Count's power, and Hugh marries Margaret Elginbrod. This outline of a very absurd story does no justice to the many beautiful passages and descriptions contained in the book. The characters are extremely well drawn: the pompous, stiff old Mr. Arnold; the sensible, plain-speaking Mrs. Elton, and the gentle Lady Emily, all being sketches from the life, and affording capital contrasts to the fantastic Euphra and her mysterious master, the Bohemian. Hugh Sutherland is a pleasing, but not wise young man, warm-hearted and impulsive, and therefore to be liked; Margaret is a good spirit more than a woman, and through her the opinions of David Elginbrod are promulgated for the benefit of the public,—and very excellent opinions they are.

The Weather Book: a Manual of Practical Meteorology. By Rear-Admiral FitzRoy. (Longman & Co.)

'The Weather Book,' by Admiral FitzRoy, comprises the cream of his many publications since he accepted the office of Superintendent of the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade, and contains a considerable amount of new matter and illustrations. It conveys undoubted testimony to the author's zeal and energy in pursuit of his favourite topic, and is a pleasing record of his scrupulous candour in acknowledging his indebtedness to authors whose theories he adopts and endeavours to

put into practice. This praise is fully due to the Admiral; but his treatment of the subject is rather rambling, and he omits to supply the facts which meteorologists most need. It is a fault in a book intended to lay the foundations of a new experimental science, that it should be mainly occupied with deductions from unproven hypotheses, instead of the careful establishment of axioms by rigorous induction from observed facts. To illustrate our meaning, we will take the author's statement that the condition of the air foretells coming weather, rather than indicates weather that is present; that the longer the time between the signs and the change foretold by them, the longer such altered weather will last; and, conversely, that the less the time between a warning and a change, the shorter will be the continuance of the predicted weather. This is an underlying axiom of the whole of the Admiral's superstructure of weather-wisdom; but is it true? We know of no published collection of instances grouped in a way that would satisfy a man of science desirous of forming his own opinion on the subject. If Admiral FitzRoy had taken the proper means to establish his new science of weather-wisdom, he would have bestowed at least as much labour in confirming this important hypothesis as he has devoted towards raising a superstructure of rules of forecast upon it. It would have been evidence of the highest value, if he had collected the instances of marked weather-changes, say twenty in a year, at each of ten first-rate European and American stations for some ten years past, and had found in the 2,000 cases so collected that a steady proportion was maintained between the duration of the warning and that of the incoming weather. Backed by an array of facts, we should be most happy to accept, provisionally, his hypothesis; but until we have such evidence, the Admiral's axiom can claim no higher rank than the persuasion of an individual.

The uncertainty under which many of the elements of weather-wisdom now lie, is well exemplified by the opposite opinions entertained by Admiral FitzRoy and by Prof. Dove. Prof. Dove says, the advancing current of an incoming northerly wind blows along the ground, and that the storm is upon us before the instruments give any indication. Admiral FitzRoy says that the northerly, like the southerly current, advances aloft, high above head, and therefore that the barometer testifies to its existence long before the wind has changed! Here is a doubt which infects the character of exactly one-half of the forecasts that depend on statical conditions. If Dove be right, FitzRoy's predictions of northerly winds are simply nonsense. Surely, a collection of facts made by a couple of clerks working for a few weeks would set this simple question, and many others like it, at rest.

The principal axioms of modern meteorodynamics (to coin a word on the basis of hydro-dynamics) are the following, so far as the climate of England and North Europe is concerned:—

1. There is a steady drift of the entire body of the atmosphere, including all its currents, from the west; consequently, an advent of change in the weather usually comes from the west. Hence the value of sunset over sunrise indications.—(Dove, FitzRoy and others.)

2. The first causes of all varieties of winds are a current of warm, moist, and therefore specifically light air, coming from the south, and one of a precisely opposite character returning from the north. Their combinations and conflicts, and their modifications, due to the cause stated in the next paragraph, are capable

of producing every principal condition of weather.—(Dove.)

3. The direction of every wind is modified by the well-known influence of the different rotative velocity of points on the earth's surface in different latitudes. A long-continued north wind becomes easterly, and a south wind westerly. The normal direction of the above-mentioned polar current is found to be north-east, and that of the equatorial south-west.—(Dove.)

4. The polar and equatorial currents usually flow along the earth in parallel strips that do not readily mix; between their edges are calms or commotions.—(Dove.)

5. Above-head are various currents in layers, never less than two, according to aeronauts; frequently three, and occasionally four.—(FitzRoy.)

(We may gather from this the inextricably complex causes of the indication given by a barometer. It records the sum of the pressures of the currents, and takes no notice of the order of their alternation. A south wind below with a north wind aloft, would give precisely the same barometrical results as the contrary arrangement.)

6. The mobility of the air surpasses in a vast degree that of liquids. Its elasticity permits a mass of it to continue in movement longer than the duration of the original cause of movement. There is necessarily compression and a high barometer at the end of its course.—(Dove.)

7. The wind blows in cyclonic (retrograde) curves when indraughted to a stormy centre of light ascending currents (Dove's law). We notice that Mr. Galton, in a paper read so lately as Thursday week at the Royal Society, asserts the common occurrence of the precise converse of these, or of anti-cyclonic (direct) curves dispersed from a calm area of heavy descending currents.

8. Cyclonic curves are also produced when the equatorial current forces its way from the south-west against a mass of quiescent air.—(Dove.)

9. Cyclones are not satisfactorily proved to maintain their character for more than four days. Usually they last one or two. When one cyclone occurs, others succeed it.—(FitzRoy.) Alternate prevalence of polar and equatorial currents causes the weathercock at any station to "veer" in a complete circuit.—(Dove.)

10. As a matter of fact bearing upon forecasts, and taking the changes of wind that actually occur, without reference to their causes, it appears that when change takes place, there is a probability of two to one that it will be by veering, and not by backing. In other words, the weathercock makes a circuit to the right, and not to the left, in that proportion.

11. If the tension of the air differs widely in adjacent districts, storms must be expected. It is found that a barometrical fall of one-tenth of an inch per hour, at any one station, is a very serious warning.—(FitzRoy and others.)

There may be many among those who have not examined the weather-tables published day by day in the journals, who may credit Admiral FitzRoy's statements, under the persuasion that his forecasts are generally just, and therefore give reliable testimony to the correctness of his theories. We do not share that persuasion, but advisedly take the exactly opposite opinion, that his speculations are *primâ facie* open to distrust, because we find his weather-prophecies to be peculiarly unhappy. We can scarcely quote an instance where he has foretold, or rather asserted, an important change before the change has actually begun to take place in some

of his stations. On the other hand, we can quote many instances of bold predictions signally unfulfilled, those during the earlier part of this present month, of north wind and snow, being amongst them.

It is wearying to meteorologists who are truly anxious for reliable bases of ascertained fact to be condemned to read books of hypotheses, when it would be so easy to give them what they want. Thus we are told that there is much repetition in nature, and we are also told that many hundreds of wind-charts have been compiled at the Meteorographic Office. Why does not Admiral FitzRoy give us a few dozen of the most typical cases, simply drawn in small diagrams, with a few lithographed lines, aided possibly by colours, and let us know the conditions under which they severally occurred?

As regards the literary character of the 'Weather Book,' one merit has certainly been promoted by the very discursiveness of its character: it is the enlargement of the vocabulary of meteorologic science. The movements and mutual relations of the atmospheric elements are so peculiar and new to our experience, that a great command of words is required to express them. Commander Maury's remarkable power of language has done good service in introducing happy expressions, and Admiral FitzRoy has afforded his own quota of available words. Thus he talks of the *appulse* of one wind-current upon another, and of their mutual compression and *resilience*. He also writes of the *potential* of a volume of atmosphere, including under that compact phrase the entire range of meteorologic energies,—such as direction and force of wind current; tension; heat, latent and active; and moisture, condensed or in vapour.

While we doubt the value of forecasts in our ordinary English weather in the present state of the theory, we gladly testify to our belief in their value, when any extraordinary storm is approaching, and we are also willing to believe that a probability of fair weather may be predicated. In addition to this, we are convinced that a mere statement of existing dangerous weather telegraphed to the ports is of great advantage. A storm does not necessarily overspread the whole of a large district; on the contrary, areas of calm will be interspersed among violent wind-currents. It is obviously right that ports which happen to be temporarily beneath one of these areas of calm should be made acquainted with the precariousness of their position.

Ragged Life in Egypt. By M. L. Whately. (Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.)

As the characteristic heroism of the Spartans was most fully shared by the women of that race, so the women of England are in no way behind in the restless activity which stimulates the blood in Anglo-Saxon veins. The author of 'Ragged Life in Egypt' need not have apologized for having extended her energies beyond her own immediate circle. Whatever her success may have been, her endeavours are beyond all praise; and it is no doubt most true that, as she says, "a more extended interest does no harm to the home-field of labour." There is no class whose sympathy or interest she would reject, and certainly not that of the lower classes, who constitute the majority of every society; therefore the field of labour which she chose was the ragged and uneducated in Egypt. Her plan was to go to the very root of the matter, to settle amongst the poorest, and to establish a school, and so to attempt to humanize and raise out of their degradation some of the lower classes of the

females in Cairo. There were many difficulties to encounter, but all are described in a not unpleasing manner, and moreover with a great air of truthfulness. Mingled with it also are so many picturesque descriptions of life and scenery, that the reader will be much tempted to withhold any sympathy with the troubles to be encountered from untidiness, laziness and untruthfulness, whilst house-hunting in the close Coptic quarter.

Before entering upon the main subject of the work, we are treated with a picture of "the Cairo bazaars," and also a view from "the housetops,"—the most pleasant part of a house at certain seasons in Grand Cairo. From this position there is to be obtained a view of the distant country around the city; and no less interesting was a near view of the inhabitants themselves, and their quarter or "Gate." They appeared to be "a merry, as well as a quarrelsome set, and at least as much laughter as scolding went on: nor are the men graver or more silent on their side. I wonder who invented the fable of Oriental gravity, or whether some Eastern race really exists which is habitually grave, silent and solemn? The Egyptians remind one constantly of the Irish in their love for conversation, mirthfulness and propensity to dispute, and general excitability of temper." It seems from this description that it is upon the housetops of the inferior dwellings that native life is most displayed. And there were two remarkable things which our author observed, and concerning which she gives her lucubrations at the time. One was, the great accumulations of old broken pitchers, sherds, and pots on all the housetops: the other was the flocks of pigeons which always emerged about sunset from behind this rubbish, where they had been concealed during the heat of the day. The effect of the light on their outspread wings called to mind a verse in the Psalms, "Though ye have lain among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."

But the difficulties in hunting out scholars and establishing the school were as great in their way as house-hunting, and yet as cheerfully and successfully encountered. At first there was great reluctance on the part of both parents and children; but after going out into the highways and urging them to come in, a considerable amount of success was obtained, notwithstanding the ragged state of the scholars, and the unseasonable visits of the parents, who were led from curiosity to enter the room and squat on the mat to watch the proceedings. It is to be remembered, by the way, that neither the "ragged" state of the children nor their dirty condition implied poverty; for it appears that even in the higher classes a child is often intentionally kept dirty to avoid the Evil Eye: "The fear of the Evil Eye, as is well known, induces even women of the higher classes frequently to keep their children ill-dressed and unwashed; and sometimes they go so far as to daub the forehead of a pretty or highly-valued child with soot, in the idea that this diverts the power of the envious glance which they dread." So that although the effort was made in the first instance to reclaim the ragged and apparently destitute, yet they could not be looked upon in the same light as the poor and wretched nearer home. However, through them an influence was obtained over their parents, and short as was the time during which our author pursued her task of religious education, yet she is induced to hope that "the seed has been cast on the waters in faith, and after many days we may find it with joy."

Her plan was to pursue, as far as possible, the system to which she had been accustomed

in England in the instruction of her scholars,—in inculcating habits of order and regularity whilst instructing them in needlework and such like employments; and these were varied with the importation of a version of "school-treats" and "mothers' meetings," such as have been put in practice in this country. Whether such a system can take root there, does not seem very apparent; but the intentions are of the best, and there is cause for thankfulness for "even the smallest step towards better things." When she availed herself of the assistance of "the story-teller" in reading parts of the Bible to his audience, the author says—"We often wondered what was the effect of the reading so much of the Scriptures on the reader himself, but never had any opportunity of finding out. We end as we began—with ignorance."

Gongora: an Historical and Critical Essay on the Times of Philip III. and IV. of Spain. With Translations. By Edward Churton. 2 vols. (Murray.)

BORN at Cordova, of parents whose lineage was ancient and noble, and educated at Salamanca, Lewis de Gongora y Argote was a brilliant feature of Spain's brief day of literary vigour; and his writings should be studied by all who would form acquaintance with the age and actions of Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Quevedo and Calderon. Wit, scholar, courtier, trifier and student, Gongora so caught and chronicled the social temper of his time, that notwithstanding, and in some cases through, their defects, of which the taint of euphuism is the one most generally mentioned to their discredit, just as it is also a fault on which illiberal criticism has laid undue stress,—his works have long been raised above the contempt which justly covers the Purists, and have come to be highly esteemed, not more for their pleasantries and polish than for the insight which historic inquirers may gain from them into the tone and manners of Spanish life under Philip the Third and Fourth. Mr. Churton has well discharged the functions of translator; though the Introductory Essay prefixed to his translations is in some respects too minute and diffuse for general readers. Of the Spaniard's various works, his 'Historical Poems' and his 'Elegiac and Sacred Poems' are the most marked by the alternate stiffness and verbosity of the inferior writers with whom he has been too generally connected in repute. But even in these the fervour of a devout churchman and the spirit of a patriotic Spaniard make themselves felt through the cumbrous affectations of an abominable style. In the 'Ode on the Armada,' the blood of Spanish youth boils up against Elizabeth, till the poet exclaims—

O hateful Queen, so hard of heart and brow,
Wanton by turns and cruel, fierce and lewd,
Thou distaff on the throne, true virtue's bane,
Wolf-like in every mood,
May Heaven's just flame on thy false tresses rain!

In better taste and with finer feeling is written the 'Ode on Philip the Third's Tomb,' where these lines occur:—

Call it not pomp profane; such splendour due
Its own mute tale would tell:
This outward beauty, sadly fair to view,
Invites thine inward sense to dwell
With reason in thy heart's recess, and own
The love that Truth reveals to hearts that muse alone.

—This last line matches with Wordsworth's often-quoted words,—

Oh, reader, had your mind
That store which silent thought can bring.

Far better than the "Historical" and "Sacred" pieces, because in the absence of anxiety to achieve great results they touch lightly on familiar subjects, and consequently, for the greater part, steer clear of affectation,