

while right of access to them is still maintained. Their deposit with other institutions might, if thought desirable, be accompanied by certain stipulations as to powers of resumption.

"The principal difficulty in dealing with the object now in view appears to be that of bringing home to the minds of the lords of the manors and their stewards the value of what are apparently worthless documents. To do this, however, nothing more seems necessary than respectfully to call their attention to the subject, and this perhaps can most readily be effected by the circulation of a memorandum such as the present among them.

"Many, no doubt, of the present custodians of such records are already as anxious for their preservation as any antiquarian society can be, and these will see in the present appeal an ample justification for the care they have bestowed on the records in their charge."

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

- INVENTAIRE des marques d'imprimeurs et de libraires. 1^{er} Fasc. Ville de Paris. Paris: Cercle de la librairie. 5 fr.
- OURSSEL, M^{me}. N. N. Nouvelle biographie normande. Paris: Picard. 30 fr.
- RIMES, françaises, Grand Dictionnaire des. Paris: G^{no}. 10 fr.
- SCHERER, E. Études sur la littérature contemporaine. 1. 8. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 3 fr. 50 c.
- SCHMIDT, J. Geschichte der deutschen Litteratur von Leibniz bis auf unsere Zeit. 2. Bd. 1763-1781. Berlin: Besser. 7 M.
- SCHULZ, A. Bibliographie de la Guerre franco-allemande (1870-1871) et de la Commune de 1871. Paris: Le Soudier. 3 fr.
- SMITH, L. Les coalitions et les grèves d'après l'histoire et l'économie politique. Paris: Guillaumin. 6 fr.
- TOURNEUX, M. Eugène Delacroix devant ses contemporains: ses écrits, ses biographies et ses critiques. Paris: Rouam. 12 fr.
- UZANNE, O. Nos amis les livres. Paris: Quantin. 6 fr.
- VALORI, le Prince de. Don Carlos dans les Indes. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 7 fr. 50 c.

HISTORY.

- BROGLIE, le feu Duc de. Souvenirs 1785-1870. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 7 fr. 50 c.
- CODEx diplomaticus Nassoviens. 1. Bd. 2. Abth. Bearb. v. W. Sauer. Wiesbaden: Niedner. 22 M.
- FISCHER, Th. Sammlung mittelalterlicher Welt- u. Seekarten italienischen Ursprungs u. aus italien. Bibliotheken u. Archiven. Venice: Münster. 12 fr.
- KURZE, G. Les origines de la civilisation moderne. Paris: Lecoq. 12 fr.
- MITTHEILUNGEN aus dem Stadtarchiv v. Köln, hrsg. v. K. Hölhnbauer. 9. Hft. Köln: Du Mont-Schauberg. 4 M. 80 Pf.
- PASTOR, L. Geschichte der Päpste seit dem Ausgang d. Mittelalters. 1. Bd. Geschichte der Päpste im Zeitalter der Renaissance bis zur Wahl Pius' II. Freiburg-L.-B.: Herder. 10 M.
- REGESTEN u. URKUNDEN, schleswig-holstein-lauenburgischer. Bearb. u. hrsg. v. P. Hasse. 2. Bd. (1250-1300). 2. Lfg. Hamburg: Voss. 4 M.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.

- KARSTEN, G. Ueb. die Anlage seitlicher Organe bei den Pflanzen. Leipzig: Engelmann. 4 M.
- KOCH, F. E. Die Ringcula d. norddeutschen Tertiär. Güstrow: Optiz. 1 M. 50 Pf.
- WALLASCHER, K. Ideen zur praktischen Philosophie. Tübingen: Lanpp. 3 M.
- WOHLGEMUTH, E. v. Vorbericht zur wissenschaftlichen Publikation der österreichischen Polarexpedition nach Jan Mayen. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 5 M. 50 Pf.
- ZURIGRODZKI, M. v. Die Mutter bei den Völkern d. arischen Stammes. München: Ackermann. 6 M.

PHILOLOGY, ETC.

- ARISTOTELIS metaphysica. Rec. W. Christ. Leipzig: Teubner. 2 M. 40 Pf.
- CATULLI Veronensis liber. Ad optimos codices denuo collatos L. Schwabius recognovit. Berlin: Weidmann. 1 M. 50 Pf.
- FOERSTER, R. De Polemonis physiognomicis. Kiel: Universitäts-Buchhandlung. 1 M.
- KRAFT, G. De Apiani elocutione. Baden-Baden: Sommermeyer. 3 M.
- RETHWISCH, E. Die Inschrift v. Killeen Cormac u. der Ursprung der Sprache. Norden: Fischer. 1 M. 20 Pf.
- SAUPE, H. Quaestiones criticae. Göttingen: Dieterich. 80 Pf.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PETROLEUM "DISCOVERIES."

Trieste: April 8, 1886.

Will you permit me to express my admiration of a heading I see in sundry newspaper articles, "The Petroleum Discoveries," and my firm

expectation of presently reading "Wonderful Finds of Gold and Silver, Copper and Iron, in the Land of Midian"?

The petroleum "discoveries" are, to use Mr. Thackeray's words, "Brand-new and intensely old." The wells have been used since the third century, when they supplied (and still supply) the adjacent monastery of Mar Antonios, the oldest in Christendom. The Admiralty chart marks the high background "Zeiti (oil) Hills." H. H. Ismail Pasha, who did, and who still can do, more for Egypt than any man living, sent Col. Middleton, U.S., to exploit them, even before I noticed them in the *Gold Mines of Midian* (Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co., 1878).

A man who writes much can hardly complain, in such busy times, if he is not much read; but the public has a right to demand before a great "discovery" is announced, with the pomp and circumstance of ministerial visiting, &c., that the announcer would expend a few hours in working up his subject.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

P.S.—Kindly also correct erratum in my review of Linschoten (*ACADEMY*, March 27), which makes him die *æt.* 78, instead of 48.

THE "VENTISETTANA" DECAMERON.

Paris: April 5, 1886.

May I point out a means of distinguishing the *Giunta Decameron* of 1527, otherwise called the "Ventisetтана," from the Venetian *contraffazione* of 1729, which is not mentioned by Brunet, Gamba, or Renouard?

Their test consists in the examination of a certain number of passages where misprints in the original have been corrected in the counterfeit, or where fresh misprints have been introduced in the latter. To be able to do this requires no small effort of memory. A much more simple, and no less sure, test is to examine the watermark of the paper. By this means the difference may be detected at once; for while the paper of the "Ventisetтана," so far as I can discover, has no distinguishing mark, that of the counterfeit bears a well-defined trefoil and an elongated A with a V-shaped bar.

This test, of course, would not necessarily lead to the detection of single pages of the counterfeit introduced into imperfect copies of the original, but it might do so. In such a case the difference in type, notably in the shape of the *a*'s, would be a sure test, but only to an experienced eye.

PAGET TOYNBEE.

WYCLIFFE'S "DE DOMINIO DIVINO."

Oxford: April 12, 1886.

The note in the last number of the *ACADEMY* relating to my inquiry into the connexion between Wycliffe and Richard FitzRalph, Archbishop of Armagh, contains one statement for which I would rather not be held responsible. The question which I am examining is concerned exclusively with Wycliffe's doctrine of *dominium*, or "lordship," as developed in his treatise, *De Dominio Divino*. So far as my comparison has advanced, I find that he is dependent on the archbishop, not only for the essential points of his argument, but also for most of the details of his exposition. This is, of course, only a provisional opinion; but I have at present found nothing to justify the further statement in your note, which extends Wycliffe's indebtedness to his application of the "lordship" doctrine to practical questions of Church and State; nor, indeed, is it likely, on general grounds, that such should be the case, unless, perhaps, so far as the mere germs of his argument are concerned. The controversy with which Richard

FitzRalph was occupied was not Wycliffe's; and in the *De Dominio Divino* Wycliffe is not even controversial, but only a speculative theorist.

REGINALD L. POOLE.

"STRĪDHANA" IN THE AEGEAN.

Coimbatore, Madras: March 16, 1886.

In the February number of *Blackwood* mention is made of the creation and separate enjoyment of property by the women of the mountain villages of the unfrequented island of Karpathos in the Aegean, and to its devolution to the female issue on the lines of primogeniture; and this custom is mentioned as one among the many other customs of the ancient Greeks which have been preserved through long ages in this out-of-the-way place. In "On a Far-off Island," pp. 233 ff., the custom is stated thus:

"First-born sons inherit their father's property, first-born daughters their mother's, and no girl can marry without [*sic*] she can provide her husband with a house" (p. 236).

And further on (p. 241) the following details are added:

"They have no pews to sit in, but each mother of a family possesses one of the stone slabs which form the pavement [of their church]; on this she performs her devotions, and brooks no encroachment. This slab she leaves, together with her jewellery and her embroidered dresses, to her eldest daughter."

It would be interesting to ascertain whether this custom is common to any of the neighbouring islands; and still more so to inquire by what means this survival of ancient Greek law, assuming it to be so, which is so suggestive of the *Strīdhana* of Hindu law, could have become established in this isolated locality. Is it a survival of the ancient laws of the common ancestors of the Indo-Germanic peoples in the ages before their eastern and western dispersions?

THOMAS FOULKES.

"CREW."

Cambridge: April 10, 1886.

Please allow me to say that, in the supplement to the first edition of my dictionary, issued with the second edition, and also separately reprinted, I give Dr. Murray's discovery that *crew*, formerly *crue*, is of French origin, not Scandinavian. It is a clipped form of *accrue*, or *accrue*, "a reinforcement, recruiting force." See my article and *Accrue*, sb., in Murray's New English Dictionary. Sir James Ramsay's quotation helps to clinch this.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

"LIPJET."

Bristol: April 9, 1886.

May I suggest that "Lipjet" is leap-gate, *i.e.*, a stile, a gate which does not open but must be leaped? "Lippiatt" is not an uncommon surname in Gloucestershire.

What is the meaning of the ending "lip," as "Birdlip," "Hindlip," and other names of places in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire?

THOMAS KERSLAKE.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

- MONDAY, April 19, 4 p.m. Asiatic: "The Sumerian Language and its Affinities," by Prof. Hommel; "The Present State of Education in Egypt," by Mr. Cunyngame.
- 5 p.m. London Institution: "Marine Insurance," by Dr. E. Freshfield.
- 7 p.m. Education Society: "Method in Teaching French," by M. A. Esclançon.
- 8 p.m. Society of Arts: Cantor Lecture, "Tapestry Making and Embroidery," III., by Mr. Alan S. Cole.
- 8 p.m. Aristotelian: Kant's Kritik, concluded: "Methodology of Practical Reason," by Mr. F. Daphne.
- 8 p.m. Victoria Institute: "The Persistence of Type," by Mr. Hastings C. Dent.