

No. 82, by William Strang. There is also a very interesting study in coloured relief, *The Toilette*, No. 26, by that well-known decorative artist, R. Anning Bell. The design is really graceful, and the colour both warm and delicate.

In earlier papers we have compared the Arts and Crafts Exhibition with that of the French decorative Artists at the Grafton Galleries, and have had little difficulty in recognizing the distinctive merits and defects of each of the Schools represented.

The reason for the existence of this new English Art Club, is, I confess, beyond me; but I think that probably Mr. Whistler must be responsible for the teaching of this School, though none of the works can compare with some of his. Why, we may fairly ask, has the study of the pure colour of the old Italian painters been neglected in favour of the muddy, dingy colours we see in the Dudley Gallery—colours which are a libel on the tints of England?

FLORENCE M. ROBERTS-AUSTEN.

Books of the Week.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

CHRISTMAS is drawing near, and many people are thinking of buying their Christmas presents for their friends and relations. Few presents are nicer to give or to receive than books, and, therefore, we think it may be of interest to our readers to describe a few of the new publications and reprints of the older ones that seem especially suitable for gifts.

“OUR VILLAGE.” By Mary Russel Mitford. With a Preface by Anne Thackeray Ritchie, and 100 illustrations by Hugh Thomson. Crown 8vo., gilt, or edges uncut, 6/-.

The outside of this pretty volume is decorated with a charming design in poppies (or, if preferred, it can be had in plain green buckram, with uncut edges). Miss Thackeray writes an interesting preface, and the illustrations, from beginning to end of the dainty volume, are capitally drawn. The animals are full of character, and so are the elderly ladies and gentlemen. The young ladies are, perhaps, a trifle sentimental, but that seems not entirely out of keeping with Miss Mitford's descriptions of them.

“PROVERBS IN PORCELAIN,” to which is added “Au Revoir,” a Dramatic Vignette. By Austin Dobson. With twenty-five illustrations by Bernard Partridge. (London: Kegan Paul and Co. 5/-.)

This new edition of the well-known “Proverbs in Porcelain,” deserves especial notice, for they are illustrated by Mr. Bernard Partridge, whose drawings we recognise every week in *Punch*. Most of Mr. Anstey's later books have been illustrated by him. Mr. Partridge's designs in this little volume are full of refinement, and they have a wonderfully old-world tone about them, that matches well with the quaint grace of Mr. Austin Dobson's “Dorothy,” and the tender feeling of “Good night, Babette.”

“HUMOROUS POEMS.” By Thomas Hood. With a Preface by Alfred Ainger. Illustrated by Charles E. Brock. (Macmillan & Co. 6/-.)

Every one will be pleased with this pretty edition of Hood's Poems, but they will regret that many old favourites have not been included. “Miss Kilmsegg” is a very serious omission. The type is pleasant, and so are the illustrations, for Mr. Brock has caught very cleverly the spirit of the witty old ballads.

“THE TRUE STORY BOOK.” Edited by Andrew Lang. With numerous illustrations. (Longman & Co. 6/-.)

We wonder if all the young people, who every year look eagerly forward to Mr. Lang's Christmas book, are as disappointed as we ourselves were with the “True Story Book.” The blue, green and red fairy books were so very delightful, and we were all expecting so joyfully to have either a yellow, pink or purple one, to add to our collection of fairy tales, this year. Still, having a little recovered from our disappointment, we must own that the “True Story Book” is not without merit. Many of the tales are vigorously told, and the “Conquest of Mexico,” which takes up a good third of the volume, is very interesting, but the illustrations are certainly not equal to those in the fairy books.

“MORE ENGLISH FAIRY TALES.” Collected by Joseph Jacobs, and illustrated by John D. Batten. (David Nutt. 6/-.)

Mr. Jacobs, at any rate, has not disappointed us, and this last collection is fully equal to any of his former fairy tales. Of all the Christmas books, published this year, it is the one that, we think, will be the most appreciated by the little folks. Mr. Jacobs has such a happy knack of telling a story, his phrases and expressions are so delightful, and the *Kir-plash!*—*Lawkamercyme!* (!) and other delightfully archaic utterances, are greatly appreciated by children, and in their eyes, at any rate, add great vitality to the stories. Mr. Batten has outdone himself in the illustrations which are all humorous, and appropriate to the text. “The Hobyahs” are delightful little insects, and their wicked little eyes are likely to fascinate all the children who look at them, and when at last they succeed in carrying off the little girl and the faithful dog, the rapturous joy with which they turn head over heels all all over the page is most infectious! There are several leaves at the end of the book of notes and references to the origin and folk-lore of the tales, but in front of these pages there is a funny drawing of a beadle ringing a big bell, above him the words:—“Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! the English fairy tales are closed. Little boys and girls must not read any further.” (!)

“HANS ANDERSEN'S STORIES AND FAIRY TALES.” (A new complete edition.) With an entirely New Translation by H. Oskar Sommer, Ph.D. Illustrated with over 100 Pictures and newly-designed Initial Letters by Arthur J. Gaskin, Master at the Birmingham School of Art. In Two Vols. of 410 and 440 pages each. Large crown 8vo., 6/- each. Sold separately.

“THE LITTLE MERMAID” AND OTHER STORIES. By Hans Christian Anderson. Translated by N. Nisbet Bain. Illustrated by R. Weguelin. (Lawrence and Bullen, London, 1893. 12/6.)

While we are reviewing fairy tales, we should like to mention these two new editions of Hans Andersen's

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