

each other, are vivaciously recorded, but Maria did not spend all her life in Ireland; she travelled a great deal with her parents, and made long stays in Clifton and London. In 1803, Mr. Edgeworth took his wife and elder children to Paris; and Miss Edgeworth's letters containing as they do a bright and sprightly account of all the most eminent French personages, are the best part of these two volumes. Mr. Edgeworth refused to be presented to Napoleon—so Maria has to confine herself to describing his appearance on horseback as he reviewed his soldiers. During her stay in Paris, Miss Edgeworth was beloved by a Swedish gentleman, Monsieur Edelcrantz. This was the one romance of her life; she refused his offer of marriage; but, nevertheless, from her stepmother's sympathetic letters we gather that she returned his love. Mrs. Edgeworth says: "She decided rightly for her own future happiness and that of her family, but she suffered much at the time and long afterwards."

Miss Edgeworth's first published work appeared in 1795—it was entitled "Letters for Literary Ladies"—and in 1796 she published the well-known collection of stories known as "The Parents' Assistant." "The Purple Jar," "Lazy Lawrence," and "The Cherry Orchard" have been read and enjoyed by many thousand children, and of "Simple Susan" Sir Walter Scott said, that "when the boy brings back the lamb to the little girl, there is nothing for it but to put down the book and cry."

In spite of their old-fashioned and rather didactic style, I have, personally, found that young children prefer these stories, "Harry and Lucy" and "Little Frank," to many more modern children's tales, for their writer loved children and had the gift of story telling. Many of her novels are well worth reading. We know how highly Sir Walter Scott appreciated them by his reference to them in the preface to *Waverley*, in which he says that it had been his desire, "in some distant degree, to emulate the admirable Irish portraits drawn by Miss Edgeworth."

"Castle Rackrent," "Patronage," "Helen," "The Absentee," etc., were all greatly appreciated when they were published, and it is a pity and a decided loss to the present generation that they are not more read nowadays; they show real power of character drawing, and are, moreover, interesting; but the tendency to moralise over the situation in rather long-winded paragraphs is trying to a generation who refuse all literary jam if they even suspect the presence of the powder beneath; and in Miss Edgeworth's stories it must be confessed that the powder is apt to show above the jam! One is inclined to suspect, after reading her own delightful merry letters, that perhaps this sententiousness was owing to her father's influence.

The sorrows and joys, anxieties and amusements, of the life of a large family are written about in these admirable letters with large-hearted sympathy and keen discrimination. But her affectionate sympathy was not confined to home alone, for outside her own family, Maria acquired a large and appreciative circle of friends. Her letters from London to her relatives in Ireland mention almost all the principal political, literary, and artistic personages of the early part of this century, and she finds something suggestive, quaint or interesting to say about them all.

Mr. Hare has edited these volumes with skill. His own short well-written paragraphs supply the gaps left

by the letters, and explain allusions that readers might otherwise not comprehend. The world is decidedly the richer by this addition to the biographies of eminent writers, and every individual must profit by the revelation of a life that was so brave, simple, and unselfish. Mr. Hare's concluding sentence admirably sums up Miss Edgeworth's character. He says: "Her whole life, of eighty-three years, had been an aspiration after good."

What nobler eulogy could be pronounced on any man or woman's career upon this planet!

A. M. G.

## Reviews.

"Text Book of Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses." By Diana C. Kimber. (Macmillan & Co., New York.) This is a book of 264 pages designed by the authoress for the use of Nurses, and compiled from standard works on Anatomy and Physiology. The type and appearance of the book are all that might have been expected in excellence from the well-known reputation of the publisher. But the text appears to us to have two decided faults. It is written with considerable care and conscientiousness, but there are unfortunately many typographical errors which are probably due to the fact that the matter has been compiled from other books, and that it therefore contains some terms which are unfamiliar to the writer. Moreover, such obvious mistakes occur as, "the reaction of urine is effected by diet and exercise," while in several places reference is made to "specific" gravity. The other fault is that the authoress has, in some parts, gone into considerable detail of minute anatomy and physiology which are, on the one hand, not only unnecessary for the Nurse to know, but which, without dissection and a microscope, she would find it almost impossible to understand, and, indeed, to remember; while, on the other hand, throughout the whole book there is no attempt made to apply the instruction given, to practical Nursing. Considering how limited is the time involved in Nursing education, it has always appeared to us to be essential, in order that anatomical and physiological teaching should be of any avail at all, that every fact which was taught should be correlated with its bearing upon the Nursing of the sick; because, otherwise, the knowledge acquired—which is, even at the best, elementary—of physiology and anatomy, must appear to the beginner to be only connected with the functions of the body in health, and its connection most obscure with the disturbances to which those functions are liable in the course of disease. It is our duty to our readers to say this much. But beyond the careful and, generally speaking, most accurate description of the tissues and functions of the human frame which this book affords, we can cordially commend it for the numerous illustrations which it contains. But here again, although well suited to a text-book on Physiology for medical students—and, as a matter of fact, many of them are well known illustrations of such text-books—we regret to observe that some of these must prove rather obscure to the average Nurse, and many, we imagine, would be rather more puzzled than enlightened, for example, by the plate showing "end-bulbs from the human conjunctiva," the diagram illustrating "rays of light converging in a myopic and a hypermetropic

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