

ornament not without grace, and perhaps sometimes conducive to the awakening of a pupil, or even of a teacher, to the possibilities in his continued study of the language.

The text of this edition is that of C. F. W. Müller, and each volume has a critical appendix, given up mainly to a discussion of the deviations from Müller's text, some ninety in number. In this place the interpretation of a few difficult passages is also considered. This portion of the book is for the teacher and the scholar, or perhaps we should say for the scholarly teacher, and does not stint references to Latin writers and modern scholars. The discussions are often helpful and always suggestive. MSS. of the *de Am.* are very much in evidence just now. The recently issued *Trans. and Proc. of the Am. Phil. Assoc. for 1897* contains a list of the more important variant readings of a MS. now in the possession of Dr. Bates of the University of Pennsylvania, and considered by him to belong to the early part of the fifteenth century. On top of this, Professor Bennett announces the discovery of two MSS. in the library of Cornell University, and promises an early account of them.

Typographically these books are all one could wish them to be, except for two matters of details. The omission of the name of Cicero from the cover is, although harmless, a mistake in judgment; more harmful and more unfortunate in every way is the omission of the year of publication from the title page.

J. C. KIRTLAND, JR.

PHILLIP ACADEMY,
Exeter, N. H.

Todd's New Astronomy.

THE American Book Company has just issued a new work on elementary astronomy, by Professor David P. Todd, of Amherst College. It differs from other books of the same kind most decidedly in that it makes very prominent the laboratory method in the study of celestial phenomena.

Professor Todd has succeeded in showing how a very large number of experiments and observations can be made with simple apparatus, which can be constructed by the students; and the method of procedure has been made exceptionally plain by most excellent illustrations. This feature will be welcome to progressive teachers, who have often been conscious of having to ask their pupils to accept too much upon

authority to attain the best results. While astronomy is the most exact of the physical sciences, and appeals for every result to observation or rigorous deductions from established principles, it has too frequently been taught most dogmatically. Professor Todd has shown that even with beginners many statements may be verified, and that enough observational work may be done to reveal the spirit of the science.

This book, being the newest, has the advantage over others of containing the latest discoveries. The arrangement is logical and the material well chosen. It contains too much rather than too little. The paragraphing, with heavy type headings, makes it attractive to the eye, and greatly facilitates in classifying matter. On the whole, it will certainly fill a need, and take its place among the very best books on elementary astronomy.

F. R. MOULTON

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NOTES

MESSRS. D. C. HEATH & Co. announce for immediate publication *The Merchant of Venice*, in the "Arden Shakespeare Series." This makes the twelfth play issued in this series. There are several others in active preparation.

THE Business Section of the National Educational Association desires to call attention to the following request: Business Section, N. E. A., Ann Arbor, Mich., February 1, 1898.—I desire to secure a copy of the course of study of all schools, public or private, which are giving any course in business education. It is desired to make a comparison of existing courses with a model which will be presented to the section at the Washington meeting.—D. W. Springer, President.

In the April *Educational Review*, President Eliot of Harvard discusses the report of the New England Teachers' Association on "Practical Methods of Teaching History." The text of the report is also given. Other articles in that number are: "English Sources for History Teaching," by Earl Barnes and Mary Sheldon Barnes; "Private Education in Virginia," by William Baird; "University Study at Berlin and Oxford," by Samuel H. Bishop; "Continuous Sessions of Normal Schools," by Irwin Shepard; "The Culture-Epoch Theory," by N. C. Vandewalker.

Selections from Washington, Lincoln, and Bryant, edited, with suggestions for the use of grammar and high schools, by Harry T. Nightingale, instructor in history and English, South Division High School, Chicago, Ill.; stiff covers,