

## AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

LOVERS of the camera will read with interest Ellerslie's Wallace's article on "Orthochromatic Films and Plates," in *Outing* for November.

— Some time ago we noticed the first volume of a work entitled "Hermetic Philosophy," and the second volume has now appeared from the press of Lippincott. It purports to be written by "Styx, of the H. B. of L.," and in style and character is a fit companion of its predecessor. It is impossible to give an intelligible idea of the book, for the simple reason that the book itself is not intelligible; but an extract from it will perhaps give our readers some notion of its general character. Speaking of life, the writer says: "A germ of life enters the matrix of its conception as a secondary point in a line of projection, and this line is projected from a paternal fountain of both intelligence and life; and the germ, in order to attain to the freedom of a point, must be stripped of its affiliations with special measurements. When thus liberated, it has simply cast off the physical and resumed its normal psychical habitude. Then in its freedom it may affiliate with the energies which flow in a line, even in those which follow the lunar rays of light; we say in the lunar, because such an entity is yet of a psychical consistency" (p. 86). Elsewhere we read that "we have in us earth, water, air, and fire, which yet are neither earth, water, air, nor fire, nor anything truly" (p. 56);

and in our humble opinion this so-called "hermetic philosophy" is neither philosophy, science, nor religion, nor "anything truly."

—"Higher Education in Indiana" is the title of a monograph by Professor James Albert Woodburn of the Indiana University, published by the government Bureau of Education as Circular of Information No. 1, 1891. It contains an outline of the free common school system of Indiana; a brief account of that State's educational history in the development of its common schools; and a historical account of the origin, growth, and development of Indiana's various institutions for higher education, together with a glance at their present condition. The monograph makes a volume of two hundred pages.

—The October number of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, which has been delayed for a week or two after its usual date of publication, has made its appearance, with a varied table of contents. Noteworthy among the articles are a paper by Bishop Keane, rector of the Catholic University of America, on the relation of the Catholic Church to the social questions of the day; another by Professor William Carey Jones of California on the Kaweah Co-operative Colony in that State; and one by Professor Bemis of Vanderbilt University on the action of trades-unions with respect to apprentices. Several writers continue the discus-

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sion of points of economic theory, and there is a short paper on the Toronto street railway. A note announces a forthcoming reprint of Cantillon's celebrated essay on commerce.

— Professor W. O. Atwater of Wesleyan University contributes an article to the November *Century* on "The Food-Supply of the Future," the first in a series which will have especial value to farmers. The writer believes that the doctrine of Malthus — that the time will come when there will not be food enough for the human race, owing to the theory that population increases in a geometrical and food-supply in an arithmetical ratio — is one which need never give the world any uneasiness, owing to the great advances that are being made in chemistry. Science has shown what are the essential factors in vegetable production, and plants can now be grown in water or in sand by adding the proper chemicals. Professor Atwater gives the result of an interesting experiment recently made in his laboratory. Sea sand was brought from the shore of Long Island Sound. To divest it of

every possible material which the plant might use for food except the sand itself, it was carefully washed with water and then heated. It was put into glass jars, water was added, and minute quantities of chemical salts were dissolved in it. Dwarf peas, planted in this sand, grew to a height of eight feet, while peas of the same kind, planted by a skilful gardener in the rich soil of a garden close by, reached a height of only four feet.

— In *Lippincott's Magazine* for November, two articles that will be read with interest are "The Evolution of Money and Finance," by J. Howard Cowperthwait, and "The Restoration of Silver," by John A. Grier. The first is a strong plea for gold only as a standard measure of value. Mr. Grier, from the bi-metallic point of view, attacks this article, and puts in a plea for the equal use of both gold and silver as a measure of value. The "silver question" is one which every American should understand, and the best way to understand it is to look at both sides of the question.

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