two parts—Part I is descriptive and deals in full with the life-history of ferns; Part II deals with methods of study. The descriptive portion of the work is arranged in several chapters, six chapters being devoted to the leptosporangiate homosporous Filicinae, and one chapter to the Ophioglossaceae. The chapters on the ferns trace in detail the development, morphology and anatomy of the gametophytic and sporophytic phases. The text is in no sense a compilation, but is written after a thoroughgoing and serious investigation by the author, using the Collodion Method as a means of bringing the material under contribution, so that in a very large measure it is written from nature revealed by original preparations. One unique feature of the work is the result of a critical examination by the author of the structure of the sporangium in the different orders of ferns and the dispersion of the spores.

In the light of this study it is clearly shown that the customary statements regarding the extent of the annulus must be modified. The 163 illustrations are all original from camera lucida sketches, accompanied by a magnified micrometer scale, so that the reader can at once compute the magnification. All of the illustrations of sections are from objects prepared by the Collodion Method, and several of them from preparations made by students of the author during their ordinary laboratory work. The old method of free-hand sectioning rendered it an extremely difficult task even for an expert to make satisfactory sections of the delicate prothalline tissue. The profuse illustrations in this book, representing, as they do, the entire range of development, the chief features of anatomy and a comprehensive treatment of the structure of the sporangia of the different orders, are evidence of the comparative ease with which students may now, by this method, overcome obstacles which heretofore have stood in the way.

From the intermediate position which ferns occupy in the plant kingdom their life-history presents a generalized view of the chief phenomena of plant life, and they are therefore suited for studies of the morphological aspect of botany, and form a suitable introduction to this phase of botanical instruction. The book is suitably to assist students in laboratory classes in successfully tracing out the more difficult phases in the development of fern organs. The descriptive part affords a convenient means of reference at any step of the work, while the practical part deals with methods, preparation of material and instructions for prosecuting various phases of the investigation, and is to be used as a laboratory guide. By its use, as first tested by the author in his own classes, the students are enabled to work with precision and accuracy permanent microscopic preparations of all the stages of development. Especial success has been had in adapting the collodion method to the handling of the delicate prothalline tissue, sexual organs and embryo, it being better suited to such delicate tissue than the paraffin method, and the preparation of material can be carried through in less time and with far less trouble. Permanent microscopic sections thus made serve the purpose of study, for future reference, and, if desired, for class illustration.

Descriptive part occupies such a prominent part of the book that it will commend itself also to those who do not contemplate the practical study, but desire a compact form, a much fuller account of fern history than can be obtained in ordinary text-books.

—Charles Scribner's Sons will publish a sumptuous art-work, entitled "Rembrandt: his life, his work and his time," by Emilie Michel. Among their other books, newly ready, are a new book by Dr. Henry M. Field, entitled "The Barbary Coast," a description of a leisurely journey to many interesting points in Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli.
FAMOUS VOYAGERS AND EXPLORERS.—$1.50.

Mrs. Bolton has added to her Famous series of books another and an unusually interesting volume, "Famous Voyagers and Explorers." It is hardly comprehensive, as it gives the biographies of only a few typical explorers—Marco Polo, Columbus, Magellan, Raleigh, and the more prominent of our modern American explorers. Doubtless such names as the Cabots, Sir Humphry Gilbert, De Soto, Cartier, Nansen and others are reserved for a second volume. Mrs. Bolton has a gift for this sort of writing, and she has here brought together a large amount of deeply interesting matter which otherwise could only be obtained by reading through a dozen or more separate volumes. The book is illustrated with several portraits.—Boston Transcript.

OUR GREAT WEST.—$2.00.

The contents of the volume appeared serially in Harper's Magazine and Harper's Weekly, in which periodicals they attracted wide attention and favorable comment. Their importance fully justified their republication in a more permanent form. The book affords a more minute insight into the present condition of the West than can be found elsewhere. What it tells is the result of personal experience, fortified by information obtained from the best-informed and most reliable men in the localities under discussion, and set forth with admirable clearness and impartiality. It is a work to be read and pondered by those interested in the growth of the nation westward, and is of permanent standard value.—Boston Gazette.

STATESMEN.—$2.00.

In the preparation of this work, Noah Brooks has aimed to present a series of character sketches of the eminent persons selected for portraiture. The object is to place before the present generation of Americans salient points in the careers of public men whose attainments in statesmanship were the result of their own individual exertions and force of character rather than of fortunate circumstances. Therefore these brief studies are not biographies. Mr. Brooks had the good fortune of personal acquaintance with most of the statesmen of the latter part of the period illustrated by his pen, and he considers it an advantage to his readers that they may thus receive from him some of the impressions which these conspicuous personages made upon the mental vision of those who heard and saw them while they were living examples of nobility of aim and success of achievement in American statesmanship.

MEN OF BUSINESS.—$2.00.

W. O. Stoddard, who has just written a book published by the Scribners, on "Men of Business," tells how the late Senator Stanford chopped his way to the law. "He had grown tall and strong," says Mr. Stoddard, "and was a capital hand in a hay-field, behind a plough, or with an axe in the timber; but how could this help him into his chosen profession? Nevertheless it was a feat of wood-chopping which raised him to the bar. When he was eighteen years of age his father purchased a tract of woodland; wished to clear it, but had not the means to do so. At the same time he was anxious to give his son a lift. He told Leand, therefore, that he could have all he could make from the timber, if he would leave the land clear of trees. Leland took the offer, for a new market had been created for cord-wood. He had saved money enough to hire other choppers to help him, and he chopped for the law and his future career. Over 2,000 cords of wood were cut and sold to the Mohawk and Hudson River Railroad, and the net profit to the young contractor was $2,600. It had been earned by severe toil, in cold and heat, and it stood for something more than dollars.—Brooklyn Times.

ORTHOMETRY.—$2.00.

In "Orthometry" Mr. R. F. Brewer has attempted a fuller treatment of the art of versification than is to be found in the popular treatises on that subject. While the preface shows a tendency to encourage verse-making, as unnecessary as it is undesirable, the work may be regarded as useful so far as it tends to cultivate an intelligent taste for good poetry. The rhyming dictionary at the end is a new feature, which will undoubtedly commend itself to those having a use for such aids. A specially interesting chapter is that on "Poetic Trifles," in which are included the various imitations of foreign verse in English. The discussion of the sonnet, too, though failing to bring out fully the spiritual nature of this difficult verse form, is more accurate than might be expected from the following sentence: "The form of the sonnet is of Italian origin, and came into use in the fifteenth [sic] century, towards the end of which its construction was perfected, and its utmost melodious sweetness attained in the verse of Petrarch and Dante." In the chapter on Alliteration there are several misleading statements, such as calling "Piers the Plowman" an "Old English" poem. In the bibliography one is surprised not to find Mr. F. B. Gummere's admirable "Handbook of Poetics," now in its third edition. In spite of these and other shortcomings, which can be readily corrected in a later issue, this work may be recommended as a satisfactory treatment of the mechanics of verse. A careful reading will improve the critical faculties.—The Dial.

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