

told that it cannot be understood by ordinary intelligence, — a fact that we are not inclined to dispute. We did, however, find one proposition in the book which we not only understood, but believed. We read on p. 61 that "that which is immortal is not mortal; that which is mortal is not immortal." This we solemnly believe to be true, and we can only regret that the rest of the book is not equally valuable.

— Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls will publish in November a narrative poem in blank verse by William Cleaver Wilkinson, entitled "The Epic of Saul." The poem treats of the career of Saul the Pharisee up to the time of his conversion. Passages of the "Epic of Saul" have appeared in *The Century*, *The Independent*, and other periodicals, entitled as separate poems.

— *The Chautauquan* for November presents, among other articles, the following: "The Intellectual development of the English," by Edward A. Freeman; "The English Constitution," II., by Woodrow Wilson; "The Religious History of England," II., by Professor George P. Fisher; "How the Saxons Lived," Part II., by R. S. Dix; "The Tenure of Land in England," Part II., by D. McG. Means; "The Knight of the Round Table," by James Baldwin; "The Silver Bill," by Thomas H. Hamilton; "Studies in Astronomy," II., by Garrett P. Serviss; "How to see Southern Italy," by J. P. Mahaffy; "The Origin in Literature of Vulgarisms," by Professor Edward A. Allen; "Light-Houses and Other Aids to Navigation," by William Mooney; "Observations on Greenland," by Charles M. Skinner; "Silk Industries in France," by Albert de la Berge; "Home Building," I., by Byron D. Halsted.

— Herbert Ward, the African traveller, in "The Tale of a Tusk of Ivory," in the November *Scribner*, says, "From time immemorial the smooth, shining tusks of elephants have been acknowledged as currency by the savage tribes of the far interior of Equatorial Africa; and even in these days countless numbers of human lives are sacrificed in the bloody fights which are constantly

waged, both between the tribes themselves and the armed bands of half-caste Arab freebooters, solely for the sake of gaining possession of these tusks of ivory, which, by a series of novel exchange and bartering transactions, gradually reach the little stations of the white trader on the surf-bound coast." Professor N. S. Shaler, in his ethnographic researches, sought the record of a body of troops whose ancestors had been for many generations upon American soil, and he found it in the first brigade of Kentucky troops (Confederate). He says, "On May 7, 1864, this brigade, then in the army of Gen. Joseph Johnston, marched out of Dalton, 1,140 strong, at the beginning of the great retreat upon Atlanta before the army of Sherman. In the subsequent hundred days, or until Sept. 1, the brigade was almost continuously in action or on the march. In this period the men of the command received 1,860 death or hospital wounds; the dead counted as wounds, and but one wound being counted for each visitation of the hospital. At the end of this time there were less than fifty men who had not been wounded during the hundred days. There were 240 men left for duty, and less than ten men deserted. A search into the history of warlike exploits has failed to show me any endurance of the worst trials of war surpassing this." It is doubtful whether the survey of the great railroad in the Andes surpassed in danger and stirring adventures the exploits of the engineering party led by Robert Brewster Stanton last winter through the cañons of the Colorado. In less than 500 miles 520 rapids, falls, and cataracts were encountered. Mr. Stanton will describe this expedition in the November *Scribner*. A series of photographs was taken, some of which will be used to illustrate the article. A number of nurses in the New York City Training School have written for Mrs. Frederick Rhinelander Jones (who offered prizes for the best) sketches of their actual experiences in a typical day, or night, of hospital work. These will be embodied in Mrs. Jones's article "On the Training of a Nurse," also in the November number.

### CATARRH.

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### CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

#### Biological Society, Washington.

Oct. 18.—H. E. Van Deman, Cultivated Fruits in the Mountains of North Carolina; T. N. Gill, On the Super-Family Cyclopteroidea; Lester F. Ward, American Triassic Flora.

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