

amount of mere compilation by men who have not made an independent study of the subject dealt with. But the public has a right to expect that work of this kind shall not appear with the signature of men of known literary standing. In making this remark we have an eye on Principal Tulloch's article, EUSEBIUS. The whole article is the slimmest literary hack-work, and the notice of Eusebius' works contains mistakes which can be best explained by supposing that the writer was hastily abridging from Smith's "Dictionary," from which several sentences are copied almost word for word. What is said about the "Chronica" is one tissue of error and confusion. The whole work is described in terms that apply only to the second book. The Latin translation of the Armenian version appears to be confounded with the original work, and there is not one syllable to indicate that only fragments of the latter exist. So, again, the "Præparatio Evangelica" is described as a collection of facts and quotations from the works of the ancient philosophers, without any allusion to the important fragments of ancient historians which it embodies. The celebrated Nitrian MS. of the Theophania is said to have been found in an Italian Monastery. And finally, there is no account of the editions of Eusebius, not even of Schöne's great edition of the Chronica.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF

*Cyprus: its History, its Present Resources, and Future Prospects.* By R. Hamilton Lang. Illustrations and Maps. (London: Macmillan and Co. 1878.)

THIS, we venture to think, is really the most important and useful contribution to a knowledge of our new dependency that has been published since the surprise was announced. Mr. Lang's long residence in the island and his position there have given him exceptional advantages to acquire a thorough knowledge of it in all its aspects. He has, moreover, made diligent research into the history and antiquities of the classical island, and has succeeded in presenting in this volume a clear and instructive account of these. Mr. Lang maintains that Cyprus must have had a somewhat civilised population before the arrival of either Greek or Phœnician colonists, and that the remains of early writings which have been discovered prove these earlier inhabitants to have been Aryan, and not Semitic, and probably of the same parent stock as the Greeks. About one-half of the work is devoted to the history of the island. In the chapter devoted to agriculture and produce Mr. Lang shows that, in this respect, the capabilities of the island are very large, and that, with improved systems, it might really be made one of the most fruitful of our dependencies. He himself made long experiments in farming, and with the most satisfactory results; and for intending settlers in the island this part of his work will prove of much value. Mr. Lang gives a condensed account of M. Gaudry's researches on the minerals of the island; but our knowledge of its geology is by no means satisfactory, and we trust with Mr. Lang that no time will be lost in getting a thorough geological survey of the island. The chapters on archæology and rock tombs and their contents are of special interest; and of great practical value is the chapter devoted to "my farm in Cyprus." Mr. Lang is very hopeful of the results of this annexation. One of the most interesting results, so far, in our opinion, is his own work on the island. The five beautiful maps by Stanford add much to the scientific value of the work.

*Studies in Physical Science.* By W. J. Millar, C.E. (London: Marlborough and Co.)

IT is difficult to imagine what want this little book of 102 pages is intended to fill. In form and matter it appears not unlike a schoolboy's notes of some popular lectures. If any one really desires simple and accurate information on the elementary propositions of physical science he can have no difficulty in finding it in the many brief works which have recently appeared from the pens of the foremost authorities on each special branch. What are we to make of the following paragraphs when it is stated in the preface that "the whole has been carefully revised and the most recent scientific views considered"? "The vapours which ascend from the surface of our globe are the channels by which the electricity of the atmosphere is supplied. Evaporation is an active source of electricity, and thus the clouds, which are made up of hollow vesicles of aqueous vapour filled with air, contain a considerable quantity of electricity stored up and ready to be discharged." Concerning the telephone, the author remarks that its "action appears to depend upon the principles of magnetism, electricity, and acoustics." Further quotation is needless.

*Hydrostatics and Pneumatics.* By Philip Magnus, B.Sc., B.A. (London: Longmans and Co. 1878.)

THIS work forms the seventh volume of the "London Science Class-Book Series," jointly edited by Prof. G. C. Foster and the author of the work before us. The books are intended for "school purposes," but we cannot imagine that the author of the "Hydrostatics and Pneumatics" can be acquainted with science teaching in schools, or its requirements, to judge of his treatment of the question of the relative densities of air at different heights (p. 125), or of the method of finding the difference of height of two stations by means of a barometer, supposing the temperature and force of gravity constant (p. 127). Or again, if we glance at pp. 18, 41, and 58, we perceive at once that the treatment is of far too complex a nature to be taught to young boys in Form who probably have one hour, or at most two, to devote to the subject in a week. For advanced boys in Upper Fifth and Sixth Forms the book will undoubtedly prove useful, provided they can devote several hours a-week in any one Term to the subject. The work is clearly written for the most part, and there are but few omissions. We do not notice, however, any mention of the experiments of Mr. Tomlinson and Prof. Van der Mensbrugge on surface tension, nor of the experiments of Venturi, Bernouilli, and Magnus, on the lateral action of a fluid in motion.

*The Bulb Garden; or, How to Cultivate Bulbous and Tuberous-rooted Flowering Plants to Perfection.* By Samuel Wood. (London: Crosby Lockwood and Co. 1878.)

IT is not too much to say that the best part of the present book is its cover. The binder has certainly performed his part well, and produced a pretty-looking book, but we must look no further than the cover for a word of eulogy. We have only to turn over the fly-sheet to read the title-page, and we are startled by an extraordinary gaudily-coloured plate, which suggests a design for a patchwork counterpane, but which, upon closer examination, turns out to be one for a bulb garden. With this we are not prepossessed; and the next coloured plate still further lessens our appreciation of the author's artistic taste. We leave the plates and turn to the text, in the hope of finding the literary character of the book such as to make amends for its artistic shortcomings; but still we are disappointed, for, when we find such plants as *Dielytra*, *Tritoma*, *Lychuis fulgens*, the *Hellobores*, &c., classed as bulbs, we are inclined to ask, Does the author know what a bulb is?