

article shows him at his best. A third article on Hegel's "Conception of Nature," by Mr. S. Alexander, is a very readable account of that portion of Hegel's system which his modern admirers are commonly shy in bringing forward. The article is pleasantly free from technicalities, and succeeds on the whole in giving to the non-Hegelian mind an intelligible version of the metaphysician's doctrine. The essayist's tone is respectful, without being too deferential. He shows a refreshing candour in giving up some of Hegel's points as insoluble puzzles. Perhaps the most interesting part of the essay is the close, in which the writer defines Hegel's conception of a progressive logical development in nature in its relation to the modern doctrine of evolution, and imagines in a pleasant, half-playful manner, what Hegel would have said to the modern hypothesis of atoms and of mind-stuff. The section of the journal set apart for research continues to be well filled up by a further instalment of Dr. Cattell's investigations into the time taken up by cerebral operations, and by some new experiments of Mr. J. Jastrow bearing on the perception of space by disparate senses. The results obtained by this latter worker are extremely curious, and promise to throw a valuable light on the part taken by sight and touch in ordinary perceptions of space.

THE *Revista Contemporanea* for September contains articles on the "Physical Geography of the Sea," by Arrillaga, and on "The World before the Creation of Man," by Alvarez Sereix, this last taken chiefly from Flamarion. A. de Sandoval has two more chapters of his eloquent "Studies on the Middle Ages." In a paper called "El Arte Natural," Mariano Amador contends that the natural element should always be subordinated to the ideal; while in his "Cartas de Paris," Garcia Roman has a piquant defence of naturalism in the novel. Ramiro continues a legend of love and honour prettily told in verse; and Cristobal Benetez gives another instalment of his travels in the Sahara.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM BARNES.

IF a Dorset man, who loves his county, cannot write of William Barnes without affectionate bias, fellow-natives will easily forgive him; and the kind alien reader will add the needful grain of salt to this brief notice of the poet who has just closed a long and honoured life, spent wholly in the county of his birth, of his heart, and of his song. Among my earliest memories are his face and figure, when he was master of a school in Dorchester, which he left some twenty-four years since for the care of a neighbouring village. There, in quiet activity, he passed the rest of his days; a delightful neighbour and friend, a pious, wise, and kindly clergyman (not unlike him that Chaucer drew). None who knew him can forget the charm of his society and conversation. He was enthusiastic on matters philological and antiquarian, and brought to bear on them abundant originality and varied and curious learning. But no subject of human interest came amiss to him; only of his own poetry he did not care to talk. Talk of it or not, however, he could not but talk it. His habitual cast of thought and sentiment seemed to be just what one sees, heightened and rhythmic, in his poems.

These exquisite poems, known now far beyond Dorset, and England too, are yet, I cannot but think, not known well enough. Their dialect-dress, that to us Dorset men seems a necessary garment, not to be removed without baring and marring, may seem to some readers an encumbrance; or, still worse, may seem to be the poetry, so that our poet shall be

admired indeed, but only as the quaint preserver of an old-world *patois*. The preserver he is (all thanks to him) of this broad and rich West-English speech; but he is infinitely more. Let him only be read, whether for love of the dialect or in spite of it, and there is found a great and various treasure of tenderness and purity, of pathos and humour, of quiet satire and downright fun, of shrewd philosophy on social topics (such as "Leagues," "Three Acres and a Cow," &c.), of sympathy with all the sorrows and joys and loves and cares that come to country folk, of passion for the past without antipathy to present and future, of interiors like Wilkie, and landscapes like David Cox, and of character-sketches like a chapter in *Silas Marner*. All this is to be found; and all harmonised by a noble simplicity and sincerity of style, and bathed in a light of poetry as soft and clear as an April morning.

There is not space for quotations long enough to prove or illustrate; but it may be worth while even to name a few examples. Let any one who does not yet know his Barnes, and would care to test the truth of this eulogy, read for instance such eclogues as "The 'Lotments,'" "The Common a-took in," "The Times" (where the sagacious John warns Tom the leaguer "You'll goo vor wool, an' then come hwome a-shear'd"), "A Bit o' sly Coortèn," such character-pieces as "Gruffmoody Grim," "Dan Dwithen, the Wise Chap," "Measter Collins, or a the Shy Man"; and such specimens of sentiment and description as "The Beaten Path," "The Voices that be Gone," "Meary Ann's Child," "The Turnstile," "A Lot o' Maidens," "The Child an' the Mowers," "Hay Mèakèn," and "Ruth a-ridèn." To these one might add a great number in which the poet is still at his best. His range of subject and of mood is large; and, whether at his best or otherwise, he is never trivial or insincere, never without a charm and delicacy and simplicity wholly his own.

C. W. MOULE.

MR. J. Y. GIBSON.

A SAD gap, which will not be easily filled, has been made in the ranks of the English "Cervantistas" by the untimely death of Mr. James Young Gibson, which occurred very suddenly on October 2. The immediate cause of death was syncope, consequent upon an attack of pleurisy.

Mr. Gibson was the fourth son of the late William Gibson, Esq., of Bonnington, near Edinburgh. He was educated at Bathgate Academy, and subsequently studied for the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland at the universities of Edinburgh and Halle. Immediately after his ordination, in 1854, he was appointed to a charge in Melrose, which, however, he was, in 1858, compelled by ill-health, brought on by the severity of his labours, to resign. Henceforth he devoted himself to study and travel, chiefly in the East, in Italy, and in Spain.

In Mr. Duffield's translation of *Don Quixote*, which was published in 1881, appeared Mr. Gibson's first attempts at authorship—his exquisite renderings of the poems to be found therein. The verdict of the press was so unanimously favourable that he was encouraged to publish a translation into English tersedes of the *Viaje del Parnaso*, and in 1885 of *Numantia*, both by Cervantes. The latter was dedicated to the memory of General Gordon, and was executed in such a masterly style as to cause a critic to remark that Mr. Gibson had come into the world with a mission, and that that mission was to translate Cervantes. It is certain that he was exceptionally fitted for such a task by his fine taste, his elegant and deep scholarship, his high poetical powers, and his keen sense of

humour, which enabled him to seize and render faithfully the subtle wit of the inimitable Spaniard, for whom as a man, a patriot, and a poet, he had the most unbounded admiration.

Mr. Gibson married, in 1883, a daughter of the late Mr. John Smith, of Irvine, N.B. (well known for his connexion with the Ferguson Trust). He was a man of kindly and affectionate disposition, beloved by all who knew him; and he was one who loved literary work for its own sake, not for any credit it might bring him. He was a genial host and a sincere friend.

Mr. Gibson has, we understand, left MSS., which will probably be edited by his widow; and there can be no doubt that lovers of Cervantes will anxiously look forward to their appearance. H. A. S.

THE ORIENTALISATION OF GALLAND'S "ARABIAN NIGHTS."

SIR R. BURTON writes to us, in reply to sundry subscribers who object to Galland's ten tales being turned into Arabic for re-translation, and who would prefer a direct version from the French original:

Mitre Hotel, Oxford.

"After some two years' vain search I have at last, with the kind assistance of Mr. Ellis (Oriental Department, British Museum), found three different translations from Galland into Hindostani, not including one metrical and another unfinished. Thus what I may call the Orientalisation of the French 'Nights' has been done for me, and nothing remains but to assimilate the style of the Indian version with the Arabic.

"I am encountering endless delays in the matter of the Wortley Montague MS., which I have petitioned the Bodleian to transfer volume by volume, and *pro temp*, to the care of Dr. Rost, Librarian, India Office. Three curators make a quorum, but apparently it is impossible to make three curators meet."

RICHARD F. BURTON.

DOMESDAY COMMEMORATION.

THE following is the programme of the Domesday Commemoration, to be held during next week, under the auspices of the Royal Historical Society, of which Lord Aberdare is President:—

Monday, October 25.—3 p.m., visit to the exhibition of Domesday Book and other MSS. at the Public Record Office. Paper by Mr. Hubert Hall. 8 p.m., Popular Lecture by Canon Isaac Taylor, in the Great Hall of the Society of Arts. Open to the public by ticket, to be had gratis of the hon. secretary, P. E. Dove, 23, Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn.

Tuesday, October 26.—3 p.m., visit to the exhibition of Domesday MSS. at the British Museum. 8 p.m., in Lincoln's Inn Hall, Papers by Messrs. Stuart A. Moore, James Parker, and J. H. Round.

Wednesday, October 27.—4.30 p.m., in Lincoln's Inn Hall, papers on "Domesday Wapentakes and Land Measures," by Canon Isaac Taylor and Mr. J. H. Round.

Thursday, October 27.—4.30 p.m., in Lincoln's Inn Hall, paper on "The Danegeld and Finance of Domesday," by Mr. J. H. Round; and on "The Materials for Re-editing Domesday Book," by Mr. Walter de Gray Birch.

Friday, October 29.—4.30 p.m., in Lincoln's Inn Hall, papers on Local and Topographical subjects, by Sir Henry Barkly, Messrs. H. E. Malden, and F. E. Sawyer.

THE ORIENTALIST CONGRESS.

SEMITIC AND ARYAN SECTIONS.

THE Semitic and Aryan Sections held sittings every day throughout the week of the Congress, each meeting being very fully attended, and