

Girton College, Cambridge, is to have a Browning Society.

Mr. Charles G. Leland's studies of the gypsies will appear in book form, very shortly, from the Riverside Press.

M. Louis Pasteur made his reception into the French Academy, on Thursday, April 27, the occasion of an attack upon the memory of the late M. Littré, whose death caused the vacancy which M. Pasteur has been called to fill. M. Renan replied to the new member's speech.

Mr. Moses King, the enterprising Cambridge publisher, announces 'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,' a volume of 'biography, anecdotes, general criticism, bibliography, early poems, and poetical tributes,' selected from a hundred sources, and enriched with a portrait and other illustrations.

Mr. James Rice, the novelist, died in London on the 26th inst. In connection with Mr. Walter Besant, Mr. Rice had written a number of popular stories of more than average merit. The best known are 'Shepherds All, and Maidens Fair,' 'By Celia's Arbor,' 'Twas in Trafalgar's Bay,' 'The Seamy Side,' 'Ready Money Mortiboy,' and 'The Chaplain of the Fleet.'

Messrs. George W. Harlan & Co. will issue very shortly Mr. R. H. Stoddard's 'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: A Medley in Prose and Verse,' spoken of in our last issue. The little book will be embellished with a steel-plate engraving from a portrait by Sarony. Mr. Harlan and his new partner have followed Messrs. Putnam, Holt, Christern, and Dutton to West Twenty-third Street, where they are pleasantly housed, at No. 44.

Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons announce for early publication 'The Index Guide to Travel and Art Study in Europe,' by L. C. Loomis, A. M. This book is prepared on a new model, and is exceedingly convenient in arrangement. The names of the places and objects of interest are alphabetically arranged, so that one may turn to them without searching through an index. The book is of convenient size and contains 160 illustrations.

The English novelists seem to be falling from grace; or, at least, the plagiaristic methods of some among them are beginning to be exposed. First, it was Mr. Charles Reade. More lately, it was Mr. Thomas Hardy. Now, it is Miss Braddon. A recent number of *Punch* points out that her 'Barbara' is based on M. Dennery's old play, 'La Dame de St. Tropez.' Miss Braddon is exceedingly fond of using French plays in the making of English novels. Her 'Lady's Mile' owes much to M. Emile Augier's 'Gabrielle,' and her 'Rubert Godwin, Banker,' owed more to the 'Pauvres de Paris.' It has even been asserted that her 'Doctor's Wife' had been reading Flaubert's 'Madame Bovary.'

Acknowledgments.

We have received the third volume, 'Tales of the Argonauts,' in Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s capital new edition of the writings of Bret Harte.—*ST. NICHOLAS*, for May, filled to repletion with admirable reading-matter and illustrations, including an excellent article by Mr. Charles L. Brace on the work of the Children's Aid Society, and kindred organizations, in their efforts to civilize and reclaim the 'wolf-reared children' of the metropolis.—*PROCEEDINGS* of meetings held at New York and London, Feb. 1, 1882, to express sympathy with the oppressed Jews in Russia (printed at the Industrial School of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum).—*CATALOGUE* of Washington and Lee University, 1881-'82, showing an attendance of 109 students; and accompanied by a notice of the postponement, to a date as yet unfixed, of the proposed centennial celebration of the granting of the charter of the College.—*THE* April number of *The Christian Philosophy Quarterly* (New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co.), containing articles by Prof. Winchell, of the University of Michigan; Rev. Dr. J. H. McIlvaine, of Newark, N. J.; the Rev. J. W. Mendenhall, Ph. D., and Rev. Dr. Bevan, the retiring pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church, this city.

Science

Darwin's Life-Work.

THE chief for many years of the leaders in science knows no longer the world he erstwhile knew so well. Charles Darwin has closed a life illustrious in the annals of biology, scarce full of years but very full of honors. By a happily prophetic chance, the review of his great lieutenant's latest work, in the last number of *THE CRITIC*, issued on the day after his death, was closed by a notice of the revolution that 'darwinism' had effected in the methods and aims of biological investigation. Great indeed is the contrast between the views respecting nature held before and since the appearance of 'The Origin of Species.' Formerly, it was a generally accepted idea that the living beings which people the globe had, in some mysterious

manner, been each 'created' separately; but how, none ventured to express in words, for the mere attempt to do so conjured up such strange fancies that the intelligent mind drew back in revolt and refused to consider them. Now, it is a recognized scientific creed that the animals and plants which have successively inhabited the earth have been the descendants, with modifications, from previous inhabitants since the dawn of life. A glimmer of the truth had now and then occurred to contemplative students. Philosophers had ventured to think that living forms like ancient ones might have descended from them. The investigators in various departments of biology had gradually deduced generalizations which all tended in a similar direction. The taxologists in their very nomenclature compared the animal kingdom to a tree of which the principal types were 'branches' diverging from a common trunk, while the minor groups were successive offshoots; and the idea of genetic relationship suggested by the various degrees of likeness was manifested in the names conferred on other groups—'tribe,' 'family,' etc. The embryologists had recognized a coincidence between the stages of development of the 'superior' animals and the adults of animals inferior in the system. The palæontologists had discovered an approximate coincidence between the successive inhabitants of the earth and the successive stages in the development of the living animals of the same types. The series of facts thus obtained had even to some extent been co-ordinated. But an efficient factor in variation remained to be discovered and a full presentation of the data had yet to be made.

It was in 1859 that the desiderata indicated were supplied in 'The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection.' 'Variation under Domestication' was compared and contrasted with 'Variation under Nature.' The 'Struggle for Existence' which is the result of the progressive increase of living beings was considered, and 'Natural Selection' was designated as the factor which determined the development and existence as 'species' of forms which had descended with modifications from countless antecedent generations. With the successive changes in temperature and other conditions ensuing in the ever-changing world, the animals and plants which peopled it were compelled to keep pace by corresponding changes in structure, or to give place to others that could adapt themselves to the new conditions. So much were the views thus enunciated opposed to the current ideas that a brief period of astonished silence ensued, and men felt about before they could realize their full purport, or that such opinions were broached in sober earnest. Then followed on every hand torrents of detraction and abuse. The naturalists of the old school and the priests of revelation met on common ground, and loud and bitter was the denunciation. Numerous were the arguments against the new theory. But Nature herself was true to her disciple, and furnished the replies.

It was contended that if evolution were true, the evidence should be forthcoming in the existence in previous geological epochs of forms of a generalized character intermediate between still earlier ones and later widely separated forms; and that of such there were very few. The graves of the distant past gave up their dead, and the ossuaries of our own far West yielded most cogent testimony to the truth. Forms from the eocene and later beds, restored by the wand of the anatomist, rising in successive lines behind the wide gaps in the living files, proclaimed that all were of one blood, and showed the genealogy of the contemporaries of man. It was objected that animals were segregated by such very wide intervals that they must be isolated in different 'branches,' and that there could be no community of structure between such branches; they expressed fundamentally different 'plans of structure.' One by one the labors of the zoölogist, the anatomist, and the embryologist supplied the links between the old branches; the branches were at length completely uprooted, and it even became a matter of simple convention which should be considered major groups. 'Plans of structure' could no longer be claimed to be peculiar to different types. It was even pretended that the evidence was insufficient to show that variation was possible or could be propagated.

From every hand testimony was forthcoming. The breeder could point to every domesticated animal, the horticulturist and pomologist to all cultivated plants, the systematist and zoögeographer to the limits of species which varied with knowledge of their distribution, the palæontologist to the graduation between the extinct forms and widely separated living species, as well as to that between forms which lived in successive earlier epochs. One by one the scientific opponents of evolution became converted or died out. The naturalists of the new generation with one accord accepted 'darwinism' as a starting point for their more profound studies. The methods and aims of biology became changed. Biology became exalted from empiricism into a science. Long before 'The Origin of Species' had even 'come of age,' acceptance of its teachings had become an essential of scientific creed, and Darwin could claim to have effected a greater revolution in science than any Englishman since the time of Newton. Well worthy was he, then, to rest by the side of his great predecessor whose rival he will ever be in fame.