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of middle height, and small-boned, like most of the Welsh, and, like them, he had good manners, was of an explosive temperament, stubborn to a degree, without humour, and perfectly merciless when his cupidity was aroused; but, unlike the Irish Kelt, he would have despised moonlighting and shooting men from behind stone walls.

Stories of the Bards are not wanting, amongst the rest, and one of them could "make pennillions" as fast as he could talk, and might one day be a "prydydd," and get the silver harp at the Eisteddfod.

Absent, yet Present. By GILBERTA M. F. LYON. 3 vols. London: Digby, Long, & Co.

Supposing that there exist to-day persons who have had as many green carnations and yellow asters as they want; who have sufficiently contemplated the freakishness of heavenly twins and progressing maidens, and who desire a change of literary food, these can do no better than send for *Absent, yet Present*, a novel by the author of *For Good or Evil*. Bread and milk after curry and cayenne could not more soothe over-stimulated palates. Bread and milk is wholesome diet, and there is nothing in Miss Lyon's simple (no, it is not simple in the sense of freedom from complication), old-fashioned love-story which could hurt any one. It is a throw-back into the gentle murmuring of the ordinary fiction of twenty years ago. Here is the haughty hero of stern and classic face, always weary and tired, and whose voice betrays his proud anguish. He is at first so desperately in love with Zara that when she throws him over for his venerable uncle it affects his head and he staggers about, always however continuing cold and haughty. He tries to smile, but cannot manage it. He tries to eat, "but could not do more than a few mouthfuls." However, a little later he meets Pearl, and his passion for her assists him to resist the too ardent advances of the repentant Zara, now his aunt. This expedient of representing people falling in love with one another and changing about is the author's simple plan for the extension of her story, rather deficient as it is in incident and situation. Her way of indicating excited emotion is equally artless. "Do you—really—think—he—will—cut—his—throat?" The intentions of the writer of *Absent, yet Present* are so excellent that one might be disposed to deal leniently with her shortcomings as a novelist; but no lover of our language can overlook such solecisms as "very pleased," "very disturbed," "very changed," "do like they used to do," "however long have I been asleep?" or "he has settled down quite a country gentleman," which reminds one of the American "He has started artist."

The Lilac Sunbonnet. By S. R. CROCKETT. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1894.

Mr. Crockett has followed up and followed over the success of his story, *The Stickit Minister*. *The Lilac Sunbonnet* (surely an uninviting title) is an idyllic love story, sweet and fresh and wholesome as the scent of the crushed bog-myrtle and heather that clothe the hills of Galloway where the story lies. A sweeter lassie than Winifred Welsh never stepped over a Scotch brae nor wore a lilac sunbonnet. Her essentially womanly, practical, sensible nature is most cunningly interwoven with her tenderness, so that the faintest touch of sentimentality is far removed. Ralph Peden—not a stickit minister, but a probationer, who never goes further in the arduous paths of the Marrow Kirk—is drawn with infinite humour and naturalness. His juvenile priggishness, so natural to the budding meenister, his conceit, not so much of himself, but of the greatness of his future position and vocation, melt like snow before the sun under the influence of Winifred's blue eyes. Mr. Crockett has a style of his own, a sort of humorous sentimentousness, perfectly adapted to the kind of story he prefers. His sense of the beauty of landscape is both deep and minute, awake to every shade of colour, and the Scotch lochs and mountains give him room for description. The Scotch farm people, women as well as men, are excellently drawn, and naturally the author has selected the most original and striking types. Meg Kiscock is a servant lassie one might meet in many a Scotch parish, pert and faithful, sharp in tongue, plain in face, and true as steel. Jess, her sister, is not so common; but Jess is exceptional. She had lived as lady's-maid in England, and had picked up "Englishy tricks and trokins." She ends by making a great lady of herself. One of the best chapters in this most entertaining book is that which tells of how Winsome and Ralph "guddled" for "troot" under the guidance of that legitimate sportsman Andra' Kiscock.

SCIENCE.

Electrical Transmission of Energy and its Transformation, Sub-division, and Distribution: a Practical Handbook. By GISBERT KAPP. Fourth edition. London: Whittaker & Co. 1894.

WE gladly welcome the fourth edition of Mr. Gisbert Kapp's *Electrical Transmission of Energy*, because it is an ideal book on applied science. It deals with the great engineering question of the day, the utilization of work at a distance from the source of power. After glancing at the earlier methods of transmission by running belts, it gives a thorough and serviceable account of the most recent applications of electricity by which the energy of a waterfall is utilized to do the work of factories in distant towns. The editing has been admirably done. Electricity as an applied science has advanced so remarkably in the last few years that many special treatises on separate departments have recently appeared. Mr. Kapp is resolute enough to cut out large sections of his book, the ground of which is now covered in detail by other writers. In the space thus gained he is able to expand the part dealing with the fundamental scientific principles, a sound knowledge of which is the secret of practical success. The book is accordingly devoted to a description and explanation of the principal types of dynamos, and to the question of their application to the transmission and transformation of power. Special attention is given to the use of multiphase currents for transmission where a number of small motors have to be actuated independently from one distant generator—an aspect which has not as yet been practically considered in this country. No book could be more profitably studied by a young engineer who has mastered the rudiments of electricity, and most of it may be read with interest by any intelligent outsider.

Heat Treated Experimentally. By LINNEUS CUMMING, M.A. London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 1894.

There are so many excellent text-books on *Heat* that Mr. Cumming requires to justify the addition of another to the number. His excuse for publication is that he has tried the MS. on his Rugby classes with a salutary effect. We cannot, however, see that this book was necessary on account of anything new in matter, method, or order which it contains. It is a text-book of the familiar type, clearly arranged, well printed, and fairly illustrated. The "experimental treatment" promised in the title is hardly justified, for there seems to be little effort made to devise experiments which boys could carry out for themselves, and without actual experiment the study of heat must be very dry. The passage on thermometers might be extended and improved, at the expense of some of the more theoretical parts, with advantage to boy-pupils. Deep-sea thermometers are most inadequately dealt with, and no notion is given of the extraordinary difficulties which are encountered in attempting to measure that most familiar condition, the temperature of the air. The statement that the maximum density point of water affects the rate of cooling and manner of freezing of "lakes and seas" is true for the former only. Due notice is not taken of the vast importance of dust in determining the diathermancy of air, while too much weight is given to Tyndall's experiments on vapours. We do not consider that the description in an abbreviated form of some standard "experiments on heat" makes a treatise on "Heat experimentally treated."

An Introductory Account of Certain Modern Ideas and Methods in Plane Analytical Geometry. By CHARLOTTE ANGAS SCOTT, D.Sc. London: Macmillan & Co. 1894.

Professor Charlotte Angas Scott, whose *Modern Ideas and Methods in Plane Analytical Geometry* is before us, was a distinguished student at Girton before she received her professorship at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, and both colleges have reason to be proud of her. The book is good evidence, if such be needed, that a woman can follow and can in turn expound the higher mathematics. Miss Scott does more, for she positively revels in the recondite properties of curves. Although the algebraic notation expresses no emotion, every sentence of continuous English shows that mathematical modes of thought can call forth enthusiasm, and the statement or solution of a problem give real pleasure. The book will furnish a healthy gymnastic to the expert mathematician; it is not to be approached by the rusty.

The Nests and Eggs of Non-Indigenous British Birds. By CHARLES DIXON. London: Chapman & Hall. 1894.

Mr. Dixon's *Nests and Eggs of Non-Indigenous British Birds*—gives an account of the breeding habits of the destitute feathered aliens who compete with our own true-born birds in the struggle