

to watch them rather less concernedly than Vicar Blake or Rector Lewknor—the former a kind of Cargill, but more selfish and without Cargill's delicious absent-mindedness. "I think it takes a whole lifetime of my people to make a tragedy", says Lewknor: and that seems the keynote of the book. Lewknor was all wrong. There are Hetty Sorrels if not Adam Bedes and Dinahs, in plenty, we believe, among the peasantry of the sleepest of English Arcadias. In the circle in which Kitty moves there is room enough for palpitating life, for burning fears and "baths of hissing tears". Picture such a Kitty in the hands of, say, a Hardy. Kitty "disarraying" herself somehow does remind one a little of Hardy. But in Hardy she would probably have taken much longer in the disarraying. It would be a risky theme. There would be some sailing in the half shadow that lies about the line between propriety and suggestiveness. With that fine camel's-hair brush of his John Halsham could, we question not, have done this to a nicety. We honour him that he would not.

"The Firebrand." By S. R. Crockett. London: Macmillan. 1901. 6s.

This would-be exciting story will disgust educated people. The scene is laid in Spain at the time of the first Carlist war, but the author's knowledge of Spaniards is so superficial that we hesitate to believe it can have been acquired first hand. He indulges in that peculiarly aggravating habit of larding his narrative with simple Spanish words, where English ones would have served his turn as well: for instance, when he desires to say "one of us", he looks out "us" in his dictionary and writes down "one of *nosotros*". Sometimes the dictionary plays him false, with the result that a word appears in an incongruous setting; and the Spanish system of accentuation has baffled him altogether: to write *Dolores*, as he does throughout, is to betray ignorance of the first and most elementary rule on the subject. Should this book attain to any wide popularity, it will serve to reinforce many foolish prejudices of the half-educated classes.

AN IMPORTANT LAW BOOK.

"Daniell's Chancery Practice." Seventh Edition. By C. C. M. Dale, C. W. Greenwood and others. 2 vols. London: Stevens and Sons Limited. 1901. £5 5s.

Following hard on the fifth edition of "Daniell's Chancery Forms", which we noticed a fortnight ago, comes the new edition of the companion volume, "Daniell's Chancery Practice". These two, together with a new edition of "Seton", which Messrs. Stevens have recently published, constitute a most important trilogy: the method of linking together by means of contemporaneous editions and the same or partially the same editors these three standard works is a very interesting experiment: they furnish the Chancery practitioner with a complete armoury of attack and defence: and the unity of plan in their production permits of cross references which should be of great service. Of the present volumes, the first covers the whole proceedings in an ordinary action from commencement to judgment, and final appeal to the House of Lords; while the second deals in the careful way, familiar to Chancery practitioners, with particular actions, partition for instance, foreclosure, or partnership. As noticed in the case of the "Forms", the modern anxiety for celerity, certainty and cheapness, have made themselves much felt even in the dusty purlieus of Chancery. The editors themselves admit that the extension of the jurisdiction by originating summons, in order to avoid the expenses of a complete and formal action, with the consequent development of practice in chambers have rendered it necessary to reconstruct the parts dealing with chamber work. There are limits, however, be it said, even to the use of an "originator", and often one of the most difficult tasks junior counsel at the Chancery Bar have to accomplish is to persuade impetuous clients that that useful weapon is not available, and that the regular formal action is the only course to adopt. So far as we have been able to test the new edition, it seems generally to state accurately the results of recent changes. There is however one somewhat serious error under the head of Investments in the Purchase, &c., of an Estate (pp. 846 et seq.), where recourse is had to the conveyancing counsel to the court to approve the title, and draft the conveyance: it is stated on p. 846 that an order is first drawn up and then the question of title is referred to counsel: in fact this is not usually done now, reference is made to the conveyancing counsel without any order having been drawn up, and he himself usually drafts

not only the conveyance but the form of order which is eventually to affirm it. This is not a great matter, but books of practice exist merely to keep the practitioner right in matters of detail, and one has the right to expect that details of this kind shall be correct.

GERMAN LITERATURE.

Beiträge zu einer Kritik der Sprache. Von Fritz Mauthner. Zweiter Band. *Zur Sprachwissenschaft.* Stuttgart und Berlin: J. G. Cotta'sche Buchhandlung Nachfolger. 1901. M. 14.

This work is monumental. It is the greatest work yet produced on language, which it "criticises" by philosophising and analysing in every department and in every relation. For, as Herr Mauthner acutely points out, the science of language is a department of psychology, and (in another place) language is in truth memory, and memory endeavouring to express truth; every word has been, in its inception, a picture, a memory handed on from generation to generation which crystallises and afresh adapts it to the thoughts and consciousness of successive modifications by environment.

"The standpoint of the child", he observes (p. 464), "is more rooted in the form of speech than is generally believed. Behind all conjunctives and optatives is hidden the wayward petition of the weeping child, which, as a suckling, realised the power of its whimpering tone, and now applies it to satisfy larger needs. Mankind, in a state of nature, is as ignorant as a child of the difference between possible and impossible demands. The unalterability of natural laws is not yet, after three centuries, firmly grasped by the instructed world. The believer has not got it yet to hand; and in prayer, as in curse, the old childish demand of immediate fulfilment still endures". Very remarkable too are his observations on the distinctions between the communications between brutes, and the speech of man. To put them briefly they amount to what Bolingbroke discovered 170 years ago, that man is the only animal capable of generalising ideas. In an extremely striking passage (p. 713) he shows that the old distinction of the capacity for realising "objects" is exploded. Reason, they say, exists when this power exists. Has not a falcon pouncing on its prey, he urges, as definite a notion of it as a man doing the same? And has not a savage, entering a room, an equally blurred notion of its components as a dog? What fails both the savage and the dog is experience, not reason.

Very significant too are his strictures on Max Müller's theory of "roots" as the "causes of language" (p. 31), and on Mr. Garner's assertions about ape language (p. 377 et seq.); nor less so his appreciation and criticism of Geiger's epoch-making book on "The Origin and Development of Human Language and Reason" (pages 673 et seq.) in its relations to the distinction between man and beast. He further considers the reflections of many illustrious writers, ancient and modern, in regard to his subjects. He considers Herder as the founder of the modern science of language and, further on, he points out (p. 521) how Goethe grasped the metaphorical significance of speech.

One light thrown on the relation of language to thought must not be omitted. He shows that Erasmus, for instance in employing Ciceronian Latin is only able to apply it successfully to thoughts which correspond with classical thought. He has, further a most instructive passage respecting the brotherhood, so to speak, of languages, in which he traces how the early Christians inspired by the idea of equality, were the main instruments through translation of bringing together the Eastern and Western languages. The work is most remarkable. Its style is incisive, lively, and trenchant. It affords a panorama of its theme, and it will remain as the best attempt to deal with a singularly complex, profound, and fascinating subject.

Der Kampf um die Cheopspyramide. Eine Geschichte und Geschichten aus dem Leben eines Ingenieurs. Von Max Eyth. Heidelberg: Carl Winters Universitätsbuchhandlung. 1901. (gb.) M. 8.

It is hard to digest two elephants a month, yet such is occasionally our lot. This colossal book is the second of them. In it is much suggestive, more instructive, some exciting, a little amusing. But it is an effort, and requires an effort to comprehend. The author finds himself in Egypt with three remarkable acquaintances, one English, one Irish, the last German. The first is the "Rev. Joseph Thinker" (reminding us of Voltaire's "Rev. Goodnatured Wellwisher") of "Pyramid Villa Sydenham", an enthusiastic Egyptologist, who hopes to penetrate to the Holy of Holies in the pyramid of Cheops, and who has symbolical theories about every stone of all the pyramids. The second is O'Donald, a practical jester, who, we trust, is more practical than entertaining. The third is the painter, Buchwald, who is going to execute a monumental painting of "The building of the Pyramid of Cheops". They discourse on their dahibayah of everything in the heavens above, the earth below, and the waters below the earth.