

the distractions preceding and during the civil war, the college made substantial progress.

In 1867 he became the first secretary of the Peabody Fund for the promotion of popular education in the South and in this position he is probably best known to the country at large. The donor of this munificent gift gave large discretion to the board of trustees which he named, and as the first secretary, Dr. Sears was the principal factor in determining the plans and policies of the fund. All the South owes him an unspeakable debt of gratitude for his wise conciliatory and uplifting work. He removed to Staunton, Va., in the romantic valley where he lived until his death in 1880.

Dr. Sears was not a prolific writer, seeming to think that he could best serve his generation by word of mouth. Besides some articles for theological reviews he translated a German grammar, undertook a "Life of Martin Luther," which he never finished, got out "Select Treatises of Luther" in German and some other minor works. It is to be regretted that so few of his letters have been published. Most of them seem to have failed of preservation. Those written from Germany are brilliant, vivid. My chief criticism of the book is the fact that it lets us see little of the inner spiritual and intellectual life of Dr. Sears. Perhaps the existing material made this unavoidable.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

Forms of English Poetry.

By Charles F. Johnson, L.H.D., Professor of English Literature in Trinity College, Hartford. American Book Co., New York, Cincinnati, Chicago. 1904.

This book deals with the construction of English verse and its main divisions both by forms and by subject matter, but it also gives an admirable sketch illustrated by examples of the historical development of these divisions. The author deals with the subject throughout in such a

way as to show that the character of poetry as an art and as a social force was always in his mind.

Among other poems studied here one is glad to find passages from Sidney Lanier's *Centennial Cantata* and Miss Hapgood's *Epic Songs of Russia*.

GEORGE BOARDMAN EAGER.

The Laos of North Siam.

By Lillian Curtis. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1904.

Mrs. Curtis has entered an open door. Little is generally known of this people or the mission work among them, and the sources of information are exceeding scanty and fragmentary. Four years of residence, an alert, observant mind, and an easy style, all under the influence of a sympathetic nature give the qualities which have entered into the making of this volume of more than 300 pp. Mr. Robert E. Speer has written a brief, pleasing "Introduction." We are glad to have the book as an addition to our missionary literature. The illustrations are good.

W. O. CARVER.

The Life of Frederick William Farrar.

By his son Reginald Farrar. New York. T. Y. Crowell & Co. 1904.

The late Dean of Canterbury is well known wherever English is read as a wonderfully prolific and vigorous writer in varied departments of literary, historical and theological work. His exuberant style, vivid imagination, intense feeling and serious aims are too well known to many readers to need comment. Like most men who have written too much about too many things his scholarship lacked the profound qualities of specialism, though not the brilliancy of versatility; and his wide and hearty reading much outstripped the sobriety of deep reflection. But for all that he was a scholar of extensive and in many