BOOK REVIEWS

Stirpiculture; or the Improvement of Offspring through Wiser Generation. By M. L. Holbrook, M. D. New York, 1897, M. L. Holbrook & Co., 192 p. 8°.

There is nothing in this book which is either profound or original. Indeed, it is largely composed of quotations, ranging from Plato and Plutarch to Spencer, Weismann, and Grant Allen. Several pages are devoted to extracts from an article by the present writer (who is referred to as "Miss McGee"!), though no credit is given to the *American Anthropologist*, in which it originally appeared. The author points out that if women were independent and therefore not obliged to marry, only the superior men would become husbands and fathers; also that personal hygiene of parents is of the utmost importance in stirpiculture. Common-place as the matter is to any well-educated person, there is nothing in the book to harm and much to benefit the public for which it is evidently designed. There is no index.

ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE, M. D.

Maria Candelaria. An Historic Drama from American Aboriginal Life. By Daniel G. Brinton, M. D. Philadelphia, 1897. 16°, pp. xxix, 98, 2 pls.

An American Idyl. By the Countess di Brazza (Cora Slocomb). Boston, Arena Publishing Company, 1896. 16°, pp. ix-xvii + 19-244.

Sex Worship. An Exposition of the Phallic Origin of Religion. By Clifford Howard. Published by the author, 1897. 16°, pp. 1-166.

As knowledge advances, the motives of literature change; for the literature of each generation reflects fairly the thought of the time. During the half century now nearing its close the change in literary motive has been especially noteworthy, and since the chief advance of knowledge has lain in the direction of scientific attainment, the current literature of the day has come to express the prevailing scientific tendency of recent decades. The illustrations of this literary tendency are legion; the magazines, which were chiefly or exclusively romantic fifty years ago, now devote nearly half their pages to articles dealing with the material universe, and these are often prepared by scientific men in accordance with scientific methods; even the romances of many literary masters, like Lafcadio Hearn and Stockton, find