NOTES ON OLD BOOKS.

'BRITANNIA'S PASTORALS.'

IT appears to be generally believed that Book I of Browne's 'Pastorals' was first published in 1613 in folio, that this is the edition which frequently accompanies the folio edition of Book II dated 1616, and that the text was still unaltered when 'the two books were reissued in an octavo volume in 1625.' This is evidently the view of Browne's editor in the 'Muses' Library,' and it is accepted in the 'Cambridge History.' The text of Book I printed in the 'Muses' Library' is that of the edition usually associated with the Book II of 1616, and probably belongs to the same year, though the original, undated, engraved title-page is retained. The text of this second (1616) edition is used in all the later reprints I have seen; it differs in many obvious features from that of the first (1613) edition. The pagination and signatures of the two editions are the same, but, in the second, A₃ is signed A₂, and this error is not found in the first. On the other hand, p. 108 is erroneously numbered 109 in the first edition, and is correctly paged in the second. The list of 'Faults escaped' printed on A₆ (reverse) in the first edition is omitted in the second, and the 'faults' have mostly been amended. Although only three years separate the two editions, the later text

has been much modernized throughout; silent letters frequently disappear; *hee* becomes *he*, *olde* becomes *old*, *yeeres* becomes *yeres*, *noates* becomes *notes*, and a host of similar instances might be cited. The revision goes further than this, and is not always beneficial. The argument of the first song is, in the earlier version,

Marina's Love ycleep'd the faire
Celand's disdaine, and her despaire,
Are the first wings whereby my song
Soares to the sacred Helicon.

but in the later version the last lines become

Are the first wings my Muse puts on
To reach the sacred Helicon.

Scarcely an improvement!

On p. 4,

My wretched life to thy betraying eyes?

is certainly an improvement on the earlier

My life (like Phaeton) to thy clearest eyes?

but on p. 8, the earlier

Why should I not affect this sweetest youth,
The very portraiture of naked truth
Who sav'd and loves, yet thou not lov'st nor sav'st
And offers faith indeede, which thou ne'er gav'st?

has been less happily changed to

Why had not I affected some kind youth
Whose everie word had beene the word of Truth?
Who might have had to love, and lov'd to have,
So true a Heart as I to Celand gave.

250 NOTES ON OLD BOOKS.

On p. 15 fourteen new lines are inserted in the later edition; on p. 49 two new lines appear, and also on p. 79. In conclusion, *Finis Libri primi* becomes in the second edition *The end of the first Booke*. There are many other alterations, but we need not labour the point; the two folio editions are quite distinct.

HUGH C. H. CANDY.