

portant or constant to justify their separation into two genera, but a very strong protest must be made against this author's practice of reviving the obsolete generic name *Solanderia* for *Ceratella* and throwing the literature into confusion thereby. M. Haime, who examined the type-specimen of *Solanderia* (Duch. and Michel.), declared that it was undoubtedly a Gorgonid. The genus was therefore rightly ignored by Gray, and the magnificent memoir by Baldwin Spencer on *Ceratella fusca* has firmly established the proper generic name once and for all time.

Of the other memoirs in this series, the space at our disposal does not allow us to make more than passing notice. We observe some excellent coloured plates in the account by Maas of the Japanese medusæ, and we are glad to observe that the wandering genera *Gonioremus* and *Olindioides* are becoming more definitely settled in the order *Trachomedusæ*. The *Ctenophora* do not seem to be very well represented in the Japanese fauna, but Dr. Fanny Moser's memoir on this group is a very important contribution to our knowledge of several of the important genera, as the author takes the opportunity to give a critical summary of all the known species of the *Lobatae*, *Beroidae*, and *Cestidae*.

Silberfeld adds to his account of the few new Japanese *Antipatharia* a useful list of all the species of the order that have been described since the publication of Brook's *Challenger* monograph.

The memoirs by Augustin on the *Holothuria*, and by Wassilieff on the sea anemones, fully maintain the high standard of excellence that marks the earlier numbers.

S. J. H.

THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC ORATOR.

Orationes et Epistolae Cantabrigienses (1876-1909).

By Dr. John Edwin Sandys. Pp. xiv+290. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 10s. net.

THIS very attractive volume, bound in the light blue which stands for the colour of Cambridge, contains the Latin speeches and letters which for thirty-three years Dr. Sandys has delivered as public orator for the University of Cambridge. In 1909 Dr. Merry, the public orator of Oxford, published his admirable orations, delivered in the Sheldonian Theatre during thirty years, and in the same year, by a curious chance, appeared a volume containing 141 brief speeches delivered by three successive public orators of Trinity College, Dublin—Drs. Palmer, Tyrrell, and Purser.

It was a strange coincidence that in the course of a year the two great universities of England and the most ancient university of Ireland should have given to the world these characteristic effusions of university sentiment. This form of literary composition will appeal in a different way to different minds. But none will fail to see in it a somewhat interesting specimen of an art now obsolescent and destined, perhaps, soon to pass away, which recalls the time when Latin was the *lingua franca* of the learned world, and when the universities affected to convey their sentiments only in the learned tongue.

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So long as this time-honoured custom is observed, it will recommend itself by the happy classical turn of phrase and the ingenious adaptation of Latin idiom to very post-classical themes, to which the public orator must often have recourse; and of these arts Dr. Sandys is a past-master. His career in Cambridge was most brilliant, and among other distinctions he won the coveted Porson prize. He was at once designated successor as public orator to that great composer in Greek and Latin, the late Sir Richard Jebb. His orations are characterised by an elegance of Latinity and a felicity of allusion quite worthy of his distinguished predecessor. The public orations not only excite the interest of scholars, but sometimes evoke humorous comment from the undergraduates, as when Dr. Travers-Twiss at Oxford found a flight of superlatives (in which such speeches naturally abound) capped from the gallery by a new adjective. "Illustrissimus, præclarissimus," said the orator; "et Travers-Twissimus" was the contribution of an inglorious undergraduate rival.

The *éloges* in the volume before us are not only charming examples of polished Latinity, but they are admirable specimens of brief and pointed criticism. A man's work is often summed up in a few words which could not be bettered in as many pages. One specimen of this delicate art will serve *instar omnium*. The great poet and critic, Matthew Arnold, writes thus to Dr. Sandys:—

"A thousand thanks for the printed copies of your speeches which you have so kindly sent to me. I am glad the speeches are in this permanent form. For myself I can only say that I could wish the next age (if the next age inquires at all about me) to read no other and no longer character of me than yours."

The reader should turn to the *éloge* (No. 71, p. 39) to see that the words of Matthew Arnold are justified. For those who have not the book we will make an extract, which shrewdly characterises Arnold's dealings with the Philistines, his *εὐτραπέδία*, "cultured insolence," as Aristotle calls it, and another which compares his style to the Thames by which he was born, "Though deep yet clear, though gentle yet not dull":—

"Quam suaviter subamarus est quotiens Attico quodam lepore et salibus quicquid insulsum est irridet, Graeca quadam elegantia quicquid barbarum est contemnit. De gravioribus vero argumentis, quanto animi candore, quanta subtilitate, disputat. Idem poeta quam venustus, quam varius."

"Equidem crediderim Thamesin ipsum inter rura illa fluentem, ubi poeta ipse natus erat, alumno suo exemplar suum praetulisse, suum ingenium inspirasse; qui annis, poetarum laudibus celebratus, tranquillus at non tardus it, profundus at pellucidus idem est."

How happily he alludes to the work of Huxley:—

"Olim in oceano Australi, ubi rectis 'oculis monstra natantia' vidit, victoriam prope primam, velut alter Perseus, a Medusa reportavit; varias deinceps animantium formas, quasi ab ipsa Gorgone in saxum versas, sagacitate singulari explicavit; vitae denique universae explorandae vitam suam totam dedicavit."

And we must quote his reference to Joseph Chamberlain's "grand refusal" of the Home Rule Bill, and his allusion to the great statesman's love for orchids.

Idem cum nova quaedam de Hibernia consilia sibi periculosa esse viderentur, maluit a duce suo, maluit etiam ab amico suo, discedere quam insulas nostras in uno coniunctas, quod ad sese attineret, sinere divelli. Ipse inter senatores suffragiis electos partium suarum ductor constitutus, socios suos quam fortiter ducit, adversarios quam acriter oppugnat! Etenim, quamquam in rerum natura eos potissimum flores diligere dicitur, qui solis a radiis remoti in horto secluso ab aperto caelo delicate defenduntur, ipse vitae publicae solem atque pulverem numquam reformidat, quolibet sub caelo ad dimicationem semper promptus, semper paratus."

But we cannot indulge in quotations which would reach to infinity. In nearly six hundred specimens of the art of Dr. Sandys there is hardly one from which could not be quoted some felicitous phrase or allusion. The letters written in the name of Cambridge are as happy. Among these, specially interesting are the letter to the American Cambridge and that to Lord Morley. The volume is one to which the scholarly reader will recur again and again with interest and admiration.

R. Y. TYRRELL.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

Spirit and Matter before the Bar of Modern Science.

By Dr. Isaac W. Heysinger. Pp. xxviii + 433. (London: T. Werner Laurie, 1910.) Price 15s. net.

THE venue of Dr. Heysinger's elaborate though very readable work is the debatable land where three rival powers meet—religion, philosophy, and science. He shows very clearly that these three explainers are to some extent merging; the sharp distinctions are vanishing. Religion is freeing itself from rigid metaphysical dogmas, philosophy is becoming more concrete, and science is becoming more philosophical—is recognising that it cannot provide ultimate explanations of anything. The hope of the future is in a spiritual interpretation of the universe. This interpretation is being forced upon us as the only possible one by the recent advances in psychology and psychical research.

In dealing with spiritualism and occult phenomena generally, Dr. Heysinger takes up a sane and scientific position. He demolishes Hume's argument of "impossibility," quoting Huxley in support of the view that nothing can safely be called impossible outside mathematics and formal logic. As to miracles, either ancient or modern, the really scientific man will say:—"It is a question of evidence; I will make no *a priori* decision, either for or against." The evidence brought forward during the last twenty-five years, by such men as Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Crookes, Prof. James, Dr. A. R. Wallace, F. W. H. Myers, and other careful investigators, seems sufficient to establish at least a *prima facie* case. Nevertheless, as the author is careful to point out, it must not be rashly conceded that all psychic phenomena are due to the agency of disembodied spirits; many of these phenomena are probably the work of the subliminal consciousness of some living person, or even of some impersonal world-soul, as many philosophers have thought; but, in many cases, the evidence seems to be sufficient to justify at least a provisional hypo-

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thesis that the minds of discarnate people are somehow still producing effects in our material world, by some such process, perhaps, as telepathy. The phenomena are various in kind, from planchette-writing to "apparitions"; but they point in the same direction—to survival of human personality past the wrench of bodily death, and consequently to a spiritual interpretation of experience.

The present reviewer is a member of the Society for Psychical Research (though belonging to its "sceptical wing"), and has devoted much time and thought to the subject for many years. He is dubious about "materialisations," and has lurid opinions about "slate writing by spirits" (or, rather, about the mediums who produce it), but personal experience has convinced him that things do happen, sometimes, which seem inexplicable by orthodox hypotheses. The thing to do is to maintain a rigorously scientific attitude, to observe the phenomena with all possible keenness and precaution against fraud or illusion, and to beware of drawing hasty inferences. Darwin collected facts for many years before he "permitted himself to speculate" concerning explanations. It is perhaps too much to expect that such caution should be shown by psychical researchers, for the subject is more intimately connected with our deepest interests; but it is nevertheless desirable. On the other hand, it can truthfully be said that there is more foolishness shown by the ignorant disbeliever who has never investigated than by the man who has learnt a little and is apt to believe too much.

Dr. Heysinger's book may be warmly recommended. Not the least of its good features is its tremendous armoury of quotations—showing very wide reading—from all the leading investigators.

J. A. H.

PSEUDOCYTOLOGY.

The Plant Cell, its Modifications and Vital Processes. A Manual for Students. By H. A. Haig. Pp. xxx + 799. (London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 6s. net.

WRITERS of elementary text-books might be expected to take some trouble to ensure that their statements are, at any rate as far as possible, accurate and clear. It is a matter of common experience that failures in both respects are not uncommon, and the author of the book before us has compiled a volume which may have some merits, but they are hardly those which the ordinary student will appreciate.

To start with, we may remark that some of the illustrations and photographs are decidedly good, but that the text strikes us as useful chiefly as an exercise in criticism for more advanced students. What are we to make, for instance, of such statements as the following:—"The various forms of 'pits' occurring in the walls (of tracheids) may possibly be of use in sap conduction, but, as a matter of fact, these pits function more as a means of exit for the protoplasm after it has finished its work in the Xylem elements." The confusion (on p. 115) between normal and homotypic nuclear division is absurd. *Germination of pollen, &c.*, is wrongly and very misleadingly described as *maturation*.