Noticeable Articles.


Nineteenth Century, April. "Wordsworth and Byron," by Algernon Charles Swinburne. "Those who, like the present writer, desire above all things to preserve in all things the golden mean of scrupulous moderation —" says Mr. Swinburne. This is the scrupulously moderate way in which he describes the improvement which Byron's poetry undergoes when it is translated into moderately good French or Italian prose. "The blundering, floundering, lumbering, and stumbling stanzas transmitted into prose and transfigured into grammar reveal the real and latent force of rhetorical energy that is in them; the gasping, ranting, wheezing, broken-winded verse has been transformed into really effective and fluent oratory." This is hardly scrupulously moderate; but I cannot help thinking him substantially in the right in his estimate of Byron. Mr. Swinburne, as a writer of prose, must be pronounced more vigorous than graceful. There are two sentences each twenty lines in length, and one of them requiring pretty careful attention to get at its meaning.


A review of Mr. Henry George's sophistical book, "Progress and Poverty."

"Luther and Recent Criticism," by Principal Tulloch. This a new edition of Principal Tulloch's excellent book, "Luther and the Heads of the Reformation."

"Numbers; or, The Majority and the Remnant," by Matthew Arnold; one of Mr. Arnold's American lectures.


North American Review, May. "Matthew Arnold," by Edwin P. Whipple; a paper to which some readers will apply the epithet "smart," and others Mr. Arnold's own epithet, "philistine". It maliciously exaggerates the shortcomings of its subject, but gives no adequate conception of his position as a poet and scholar.


Fortnightly Review, April. "Homer's Troy," by Prof. Jebb. A new Trojan War seems to have broken out over the ruins of Troy. W. P. A.

Department Notes.

Among the gifts lately received by the department of mechanical engineering is the fine mule presented by the Mason Machine Company of Taunton, Mass. The Lowell machine shop has given a speeder, a fly-frame, and a spinning-frame; the latter is furnished with four kinds of the latest pattern of spindles, and is adapted for spinning either warp or filling. The Whitin Machine Works have presented a top-flat card which is completely clothed and is provided with a coiler. The clothing was presented by Messrs. A. White & Son, of Leicester, Mass. Many of these machines were modified, at great trouble to the builders, in order to better adapt them to the available space and for convenience of exhibition to the students. These are among the most intricate machines in use, and their presence here will allow a much more careful study of their construction than would be possible in a mill where they were in actual operation.

There has lately been exhibited before the Essex Institute a new method of bleaching cotton cloth, as well as flax and wool, depending in its principle on some property of petroleum, the chemical action of which is not yet understood. That the product of petroleum does the bleaching, however, without injuring the fabric, and thereby doing away with the necessity of "filling" after the process, is certain, and a mill and water privilege has been purchased in Canton, in this State, where business under the patents already secured will be started within a few weeks under the superintendence of Mr. James L. Little, Jr., formerly of the Pacific Mills at Lawrence.

In the course of a speech at the annual dinner of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Great Britain, held in London, March 26, Sir Lyon Playfair, M. P., paid the Institute of Technology the following compliment, which we copy from the American Machinist: "In the technical school at Boston, there is not only the most complete equipment for persons intending to go into every art,— the mechanical arts, the chemi-