Noticeable Articles.

The Contemporary for January has a most entertaining paper on Dr. Johnson, by Augustine Birrell, author of that very bright little volume of essays entitled "Obiter Dicta." It is a pleasant contrast to Lord Macaulay's shallow performance, and contains, amongst other things, a witty comparison between Boswell and Mr. Froude as biographers. "Boswell's book," he says, "is an arch of triumph through which, as we read, we see his hero passing into eternal fame. Froude's book is a tomb over which the lovers of Carlyle's genius will never cease to shed tender but regretful tears." "If we ask why it is that the reader of Boswell finds it as hard to help loving Johnson as the reader of Froude finds it hard to avoid disliking Carlyle, the answer must be that while the elder man of letters was full to overflowing with the milk of human kindness, the younger one was full to overflowing with something not nearly so nice." "After buffeting one's way through the storm-tost pages of Froude's 'Carlyle' in which the universe is stretched on the rack because food disagrees with man and cocks crow, with what thankfulness and reverence do we read once again the letter in which Johnson tells Mrs. Thrale how he has been called on to endure, not dyspepsia or sleeplessness, but paralysis itself." Let me say, by the way, that the critics to be the best of all editions of that best of all biographies.

The Contemporary also contains a paper on the German Colonial Movement by Baron von der Brüggen, one on Contemporary Socialism, by Prof. Thorold Rogers, and a perfectly authentic and most interesting narrative of the escape of a Russian political prisoner from Siberia to Switzerland. M. Gabriel Monod, in his paper on Contemporary Life and Thought in France, discusses, among other things, the Franco-Chinese difficulty.

The Nineteenth Century has a paper on the centenary of the Times, long the greatest of London newspapers, which reached its hundredth birthday on the first of this month. Though not the power it once was, it is still one of the great leading journals of England and of the world. There is also a paper which will interest a great many of the great leading journals of England and the world. A. Lawrence Rotch, in his paper on "Cycling and Cyclists," by Viscount Bury.

In the same magazine the "Confessions of an Eton Master" is a severe arraignment, the fruit of eighteen years' experience, of the present condition of that venerable relic of mediaevalism, the greatest of the "Great English Schools." "It is not," he says, "mere idleness that reigns supreme at Eton so much as a strepta inertia,—a busy sloth,—which with much bustle and profession effects practically nothing, and by the exhibition of its own worthlessness, drives the boys more and more to the worship of athleticism, that great deity of the youthful mind." "It is vain to point to additional school

hours, an increased number of exercises, examinations without end, and a general show of scholastic activity; the mournful fact remains, that under the present system little is taught and can be taught." "A serious mistake is made in aiming at an impossibly high standard of classical teaching, the whole system of which seems to be based on the assumption that every boy is capable of being made a scholar or a grammarian. Accordingly, the dullest and most backward boys are plunged, together with the cleverest, into that great vortex of mistaken and unsuccessful teaching, from which emerge ninety-nine blockheads to one scholar." This is what outsiders have been saying for a long while, but now the same word comes from the inside.

W. P. A.

The first edition of the Century for February is 180,000 copies, which is the largest number of Centuries ever yet published. The most notable article among its contents is Gen. Grant's paper on the battle of Shiloh. This is a most valuable contribution to history, and is attracting great attention, since it is, practically, the first report which Gen. Grant ever made of that battle. The "War Series" is a great feature of the Century this year, and is proving to be a very valuable addition to our history of the Civil War. Gen. Grant will contribute three more papers, while others will be written by Gen. McCollan, Longstreet, Rosecrans, Adlmar Porter, and others. The next in the series will be the "Monitor" and "Merrimac," by Col. John Taylor Wood, now senior surviving officer of that memorable fight.

Among the other contents of the magazine are instalments of three serials, a twenty-four page story from Mark Twain's forthcoming book, "Huckleberry Finn," and "A Florentine Mosaic," which is one of Mr. Howells's charming sketches. Henry James begins a new novel entitled "The Bostonians." The midwinter Century has been characterized as an "ideal magazine."

M. I. T. '84.

The Annual Meeting will be held at Young's Hotel, Boston, on Saturday, Feb. 21, 1885, at 6 p. m. Members desiring a dinner, at $2.00 a head, will please communicate immediately with the Secretary, and if enough names are obtained a dinner will be held at the time and place of the meeting.

Notice is given of a proposed amendment to the Constitution, to omit Section 4, Article IV., concerning the holding of a special meeting upon the death of any member of the class.

The assessment for 1885 is $1.00, which, together with the sender's address and occupation, should be sent at once to the Secretary, if the next Class Directory is desired.

A. LAWRENCE ROTCH,
Secretary and Treasurer.

5 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON.