Noticeable Articles.

The numbers of The Chemical News, from July 31st to August 28th, contain a full account of the methods employed in Koch's Laboratory, in Berlin, for the biological examination of water. This method of examination is now coming into use along with the chemical examination. W. R. N

A report has just been issued on a visit to the Museums of America and Canada, by V. Ball, M.A., F.R.S., Director of the Science and Art Museum, Dublin. Prof. Ball visited a large number of institutions in North America, and Nature (August 20th), in reviewing the report, devotes nearly a page to "the well-known Massachusetts Institute of Technology," and quotes Prof. Ball as speaking of the School of Industrial Science as "the most important branch of the Institution, which has excited the admiration of so many visitors." The School of Mechanic Arts and the Lowell School of Design come in for a fair share of space in the notice in Nature and in Prof. Ball's report.

The vacation magazines have been full of interesting papers. I have time, in season for this number of the Tech, to notice only a few. The student of literature will be amused and interested to compare the different estimates of the great French writer Victor Hugo, as they appear in papers in the Fortnightly for July, by Henry Céard; in the Contemporary for July, by that clever novelist and accomplished lady, Mrs. Oliphant; and in the Nineteenth Century for July and August, by the English poet Swinburne, a devoted admirer of the famous Frenchman. In the Fortnightly for July is an interesting paper on Lowell, by Mr. Traill, and in the September number another on Emerson, by Mr. Courtney; and in the same number is a paper by Mr. Elcott, on the late Lord Houghton, better known to older readers as the poet Monckton Milnes.

Students of science will read with interest the short paper by Prof. Sidney Colvin, on the late Prof. Fleming Jenkin, the eminent electrical engineer, in the Fortnightly for July; and in the number for August, the paper on the Life and Labors of Pasteur, the great physicist, by Mrs. Lynn Linton.

In the Nineteenth Century for July is a paper by Prof. Ray Lankester on the recent progress of Biology.

Students of geography and politics will read with interest a rather surprising paper in the September Fortnightly on Industrial and Commercial Spain, which gives a very hopeful account of a country which is usually considered as in a hopeless condition of decline. In the same number is a paper on a country which is fast becoming the favorite haunt of tourists, the Norway of to-day.

In the Contemporary for July, Prof. Goldwin Smith discusses the Administration of Ireland, and in the number for August, Mr. Bennett contrasts Mr. Herbert Spencer, Mr. Frederick Harrison, and Mr. Matthew Arnold. In the same number is a capital article, to be read by all students of history, entitled, "What History can Teach Us," by Mr. W. S. Lilley.

One of the most interesting papers is in the Nineteenth Century for August, entitled "The Metaphysical Society: a Reminiscence." The Metaphysical Society was a club which existed for several years in London, composed of the most eminent and intellectual men in England, of all professions and shades of opinion, who met for the purpose of discussing philosophical and theological subjects. It is certainly a wonderful illustration of the progress of toleration, that such a society could so much as exist; for here there used to meet the Roman Catholic Archbishop Manning, Father Dalgairas, and Dr. Ward; the Church of England Archbishop of York, and Dean Stanley; the Unitarian, Dr. Martineau; the Positivist, Frederick Harrison; Tennyson, the poet; Huxley, Tyndall, and Sir John Lubbock, the men of science; Froude, the historian; Gladstone, the statesman; Sylvester, the mathematician; Ruskin, the artist.

I have mentioned only a few of the fifty-nine eminent names enumerated in the article, where also is a list of the subjects described, and an example of one of their discussions. Perhaps a more brilliant assemblage of intellectual men never met together. What would one not have given for the privilege of being present at their meetings? W. P. A.

List of Publications, M. I. T.

Mass. Institute of Technology. Division of Entrance Examinations, 3 pp.; Optional Five Years' Course, 3 pp.; Lowell School of Practical Design, 4 pp. Three circulars, 8vo. 1885.
