

AMONG THE NEW BOOKS.

GAYARRE'S LOUISIANA.

A New Edition of the Celebrated History of the Southern State.

F. F. Hansell & Bro., limited, of New Orleans have brought out a new edition of Gayarré's "HISTORY OF LOUISIANA." This is the fourth edition since the original publication from 1854-79, and it has the advantage over its predecessors in that it is in four volumes and is better printed and edited than they. It contains, too, an appreciative preface and biographical sketch by Grace King of New Orleans, and a carefully compiled bibliography of all Gayarré's writings.

The first two volumes are devoted to the French, the third to the Spanish, and the last to the American domination. The work has a fine portrait of the author and several maps, both ancient and modern, of the state and of the city of New Orleans.

In some respects Gayarré was the beau ideal historian. His life began two years after the consummation of the Louisiana purchase. French by parentage, he was a loyal son of the state, as the last sentence of his work proves. He had the temperament, the education, the leisure, and the wealth to be a historian, and his work will always remain one of the best upon any section of the country. His style was literary, with the usual effluence of the southern writer, but it is pleasant reading.

The work should be in every library. It is worthy of a place beside Parkman and Fiske.

THE LIVING TEMPLE.

A Good Work in Physiology, by Prof.

John I. Jegi.

Practical lessons in "HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY," personal hygiene, and public health is the subject of John I. Jegi's little text book, issued by the Macmillan company. The author has presented the subject in such manner that the pupil can see the relation which the various topics sustain to each other and to the entire body of knowledge.

Beginning with the cell, he learns the life history of the amoeba, how it feeds and how it eliminates its waste products. The relation of each cell to the human body is shown, and then the organs, bones, and muscles and their functions are treated in order. The central thought of the book is personal hygiene and

public health. There are many other new features which will commend themselves to teachers. Most of the drawings in the book were made by Prof. Jegi's pupils in the Milwaukee Normal school.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ASTRONOMER.

Simon Newcomb Publishes Some Interesting Reminiscences.

The life of one who gazes through a telescope is interesting, but one might wonder what Simon Newcomb's "REMINISCENCES OF AN ASTRONOMER" were. A reading of the book, which is published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., soon satisfies curiosity on that point, and proves that an astronomer's life, while it may be comparatively uneventful, nevertheless is worth recalling when told so engagingly.

The veteran American astronomer recounts his boyhood in Canada with something of his puritan ancestry. His schooling was elementary, but his father who was the master, instilled a love of learning, and especially of mathematics, into the lad, who came to be a wonder to the illiterate farmers.

It was not till he himself was teaching school on the east coast of Maryland that the thirst for mathematics really made itself apparent. His successive introduction to the Smithsonian institution, the office of the Nautical Almanac, and the Naval Observatory, are all told in a way far from dull.

Newcomb is by no means a man merely to bury himself in the dry mathematics of astronomy, and it was not long before his name was known wherever science flourished. His scientific achievements he tells in a modest manner, and the most agreeable feature of the book is the warm praise he gives to his many associates. The volume is the first book, we think, to tell how such aid as the government has given to astronomy was brought about.

The making of the first large glasses for telescopes and the gradual enlargement of the glasses and the improvements in the instruments make several readable chapters. He tells, too, of the government expeditions for observing the transit of Venus and other events. He mentions the fact our government spent \$375,000 in the Venus expeditions and then persistently refused to publish anything about them save some brief statements.

He has an amusing exposure of the ridiculous Koresh theory of Cyrus Teed, well known to Chicagoans.