A History of the Town and Manor of Basingstoke, by F. J. Baigent and J. E. Millard (Basingstoke: C. J. Jacob) is of more than local interest, both for its subject and for the fact that so handsome an example of bookmaking should be produced in a small country town. In fact it may be said that the book has been a "labour of love" to both authors and printer. Although the town of Basingstoke is ancient its earliest records are limited in number and interest. The original inhabitants settled at what is now "Old Basing," two miles distant from Basingstoke, which is an offshoot from that place, a daughter of the mother parish who has outgrown her mother. The authors hold out the hope of issuing another volume dealing with the more ancient place. The thrice-told story of the long siege of Basing House by the Parliamentary forces is effectively repeated. Basingstoke, as distinct from Basing, dates from a period anterior to the Norman invasion, and is recorded as a royal manor in Domesday Book. The ruined "Chapel of the Holy Ghost," situated on a hill just outside the town forms a picturesque object from the railway station, even in decay. The sacredness of this spot is due to its use as a burial-place from the time of the interdict in the reign of King John, when the churchyards were closed to volume of the bulk of the London Post-office Directory as to size, containing 2,118 400 pages, or 200 more than the last revised edition of 1880, and nearly 4000 illustrations, of which about two-thirds have been done especially for this edition. The most superficial comparison with the last edition will show how thorough has been the revision. It is not merely the correction of a few errors and the addition of a few hundred new words, but every page has been treated as if the book was now published for the first time. Take the letter L for instance: on the first two pages no fewer than forty-three words are found which have been recorded in no previous edition. At this rate the "International" would contain upwards of 50,000 more new words. To make room for the large accession of new words and meanings much condensation has been made, and a
comparison between the editions will show how carefully and consistently this has been carried out, and how much more information is now given within the same space. Preparations for the revision were commenced more than ten years ago; about 100 paid editorial assistants have been engaged on it, besides a number of scholars who have frequently contributed in various ways to its completeness and value. The definitions in scientific, artistic, and legal, technical, and all special subjects, have been supplied by specialists of eminence; and numerous additional explanatory woodcuts have been made especially for this edition. A sum of more than £60,000 has been expended upon the work. Limits of space prevent an extended notice of every feature of this new edition, but we may briefly recapitulate its principal contents. After the interesting preface by the editor, there follows a very complete Memoir of Webster, with a portrait. A List of Authors

10,000 names of noteworthy persons, with their nationality, their station, their profession or occupation, and the dates of their birth and death; a Pronouncing Vocabulary of Scripture Proper Names; a Pronouncing Vocabulary of Greek and Latin Proper Names; a Pronouncing Vocabulary of Common English Christian Names, with their derivation, signification, and diminutives, or nicknames, and their equivalents in several other languages; Quotations, Words, Phrases, Proverbs, and Colloquial Expressions, from the Greek, Latin, and modern foreign languages, frequently occurring in English books, in periodicals, and in conversation, rendered into English; Abbreviations and Contractions, and Arbitrary Signs used in writing and printing; and, lastly, a Classified Selection for Ready Reference of the Pictorial Illustrations used throughout the work. Seventeen years ago the Quarterly Review declared the “Webster” of the day to be “certainly the best practical dictionary extant.” The edition of to-day is in every respect worthy to maintain that reputation, and is in addition as complete and handsome an example of bookmaking from the technical point of view as could be desired.

Three books from the Dryden Press (Taylor & Son), Northampton, are: “Mary, Queen of Scots,” by Charles Dack, giving an account of her trial and execution, and clearing up a disputed point as to who was Burleigh’s mysterious correspondent, “R.W.,” here shown to be Robert Winkfield, of Upton. From amongst the illustrations, the representation of the “Book of Hours,” used by the ill-fated Queen on the scaffold, will interest our readers. The second book is: “Holiday Journeys in Northamptonshire,” the itinerary taking us round Dryden’s birthplace, with view of Aldwinkle parsonage, where the poet was born; a stroll by the Welland, and round Stamford. The third book is “Northampton as a Cycling Centre,” containing notes on the Danes Camp, Althorp, Kirby

Quoted is given as authority for, or in illustration of, the forms and uses of words included in this edition. Then there is a Brief History of the English Language, by Professor James Hadley, LL.D.; revised by Professor G. L. Kittredge, A.B. Indo-Germanic Roots in English is contributed by August Fick, Ph.D., Professor at the University of Breslau, Prussia, followed by Explanatory Notes on the Revised Etymologies, and a Guide to Pronunciation and Orthography. Then comes the main body of the work, the Dictionary of the English Language, followed by the Metric System of Weights and Measures; a Dictionary of the Names of Noted Fictitious Persons and Places, by W. A. Wheeler, M.A.; a Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World, containing over 25,000 titles, briefly describing the countries, cities, towns, and natural features of every part of the Globe, compiled from the most recent authentic sources, by Titus M. Coan, A.M., M.D.; a Pronouncing Biographical Dictionary, containing

"BOOK OF HOURS," FROM "MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS."
THE BRITISH BOOKMAKER.

Hall, Triangular Lodge, Lineden, bone crypt at Rothwell, and Brington, memorable as the seat of some of Washington's ancestors, with illustrations of their house at Brington and their shield, clearly showing the origin of the stars and stripes of the United States. All these are printed in old style type, on early-English paper with rough edges, and well illustrated.

"OLD-TIME PUNISHMENTS."
by WILLIAM ANDREWS, F.R.H.S.
(Hull: Wm. Andrews & Co.; London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co. Price 5/6) contains a fund of curious information about the punishments of the bye-gone times which many amongst us still think of as the "good old times," but which none would care to return to. The present volume appears to be an enlargement of a little work on "Punishments of the Olden Time" issued by the author in 1881. The additions are considerable and practically exhaust the subject, making the book one of the most "quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore" it is possible to meet with. Many quaint pictures, reproduced from old sources, accompany the text, and from these we select two curious old methods of punishing drunkards and "In the Stocks," from a drawing by Nesbit. A chapter on "Punishing Authors and Burning Books" will specially interest lovers of books. A reproduction of Cruikshank's "Bank-note not to be imitated" forms the frontispiece. As a specimen of bookmaking the book is a credit to the new firm of Wm. Andrews and Son, of Dock-street, Hull. Clear bold type on broad-margined stout fine paper, illustrations excellently brought up, and neat binding.

What has come to be called "nut shell" literature, because it gives everything in a small space, is admirably exemplified in "Hazell's Annual," a cyclopaedic record of men and book of events, year by year, it is invaluable, and the general information contained within its covers is just such as everybody wants always at their finger ends, (1891) is revised to November 20th, 1890, and so closely is the record kept that there are at the end four pages of "occurrences during printing." A "Reference Index to previous Editions" is a useful feature. The book is a guide to everything of interest referred to by the daily press in general conversation.

The Bookworm—that delightful gossip about old books, published by Mr. Elliot Stock—has come to the end of its third year, and makes a handsome volume. The editor is to be congratulated on the high level of excellence observed in its contents, keeping one posted as much on modern as on old-time movements in reference to the subject of which The Bookworm is such an able exponent. Every lover of old books should read it. Two other publications from Mr. Elliot Stock, The Field Club, and The Antiquary commence new volumes with the January issues.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD & SONS have done a service to book lovers with only moderately filled purses by the issue of a cheap edition (7/6) of John Hill Burton's "Book Hunters." Notwithstanding the hosts of imitators he has had, Burton's admirable, charming gossip about books, their makers, and collectors still holds the first place amongst works of its class, intended to instruct, while it pleasantly and humorously entertains us about the genus bookhunter,