HOPS AND HOPPING," by John B. Marsh, is a handsomely got-up small 4to volume issued by the De Montfort Press (London: Raithby, Lawrence & Co., Ltd., 1 Imperial-buildings, E.C.) The book itself is noticeable in more ways than one. It is somewhat singular that, till Mr. Marsh took it in hand, no work on this interesting subject had previously been written. This not only sets forth the work of the hoppers in a series of vivid sketches, but deals with the growth and the quality of hops. Taking the recent Blue Book on the Hop Inquiry as his guide, the author, Mr. J. B. Marsh, shows approximately the number of people employed in the hop gardens, and the amount of money distributed in a single season. These results are very remarkable, and prove what an enormous help, by right economy, the hop gardens are to the East Enders. That the hoppers are very much improved in character is fully proved, and the stories picked up, by actual contact with the hoppers, throw an interesting light upon their process of thought and mode of life. The landscape illustrations are from the pencil of a young Kent artist, Mr. E. T. D. Stevens, a young man of rare talent; while the life sketches are by Julian Rochefort, whose pictures in the Pall Mall Gazette are well known.

Parts I. and II. deal with the scenery of the "Garden of the World," as Kent is aptly designated, the cultivation, cost of planting, treatment, training, and the profits made; and Part III. describes the hoppers themselves, their manner of working and living, superstitions, &c., with some account of recent philanthropic work for the improvement of their habits of life. The book is profusely illustrated, and is printed from new type, with a beautiful chromatotype title-page, and the illustrations in tints, on paper specially made for the purpose. The illustrations have been specially drawn for the work, and number upwards of forty, many of them full-page, besides specially designed head and tail pieces and initials; and, with the tasteful illuminated binding, making the book a veritable edition de luxe.

"Hops and Hopping" is specially noticeable as having been produced complete—printing, illustrations, and binding—at the De Montfort Press, Leicester, and is one amongst many indications of the manner in which the best book-work—formerly done in London—is now being executed in the provinces.
“HOPS AND HOPPING” is issued by subscription at 5/-, and the price will be raised to 7/6 after September 1st. We present on this and the opposite page some examples of the illustrations.