

were those which he most prized, coming as they did from the countries in which his first years of Oriental study were spent, and where his first personal relations with foreign scholars were formed.

It ought to be mentioned in conclusion that Dr. Wright was an active member of the Old Testament Revision Company, and did much good service in their important work.

#### IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

*The Professorship of Arabic at Cambridge*, vacant by the lamented death of Professor Wright, has been filled up, in accordance with general expectation, by the appointment of Professor Robertson Smith. It is understood that a separate readership in Syriac will be created.

*Professor Windisch*, of Leipzig, who has been seriously ill, is now convalescent. His edition of the *Iti-vuttaka*, for the Pali Text Society, is now all in type.

*The first volume of the Dīgha Nikāya*, being edited by Professors Rhys Davids and Estlin Carpenter, for the Pali Text Society, is now all printed, except the indices, and will form part of the issue to the subscribers for this year.

*Father Guesdon*, of Kamboja, has prepared and will shortly publish a dictionary of the Khmer language.

*Professor Lefmann*, of Heidelberg, has been staying for a short time in London. His edition of the *Lalita Vistara*, on which he has been working for many years, is now all in print; but the various readings and indices have still to be completed. Prof. Lefmann is engaged also on a biography of Franz Bopp.

*Professor Bühler* has published at Vienna (Tempsky) a monograph, 'Ueber das leben des Jaina münches Hemachandra,' which goes carefully through all the authorities, and sets forth all that is known about this distinguished scholar and religious leader, the most important personage in Gujarāt in the twelfth century of our era. We hope in a future issue to give a complete account of the conclusions at which Professor Bühler arrives.

*Prof. Blumhardt.*—Mr. Blumhardt, the author of the Catalogue of Bengali Books in the British Museum, has been appointed Professor of Hindustāni at University College, in place of Professor Keane, who has resigned.

*The Rig Veda.*—One volume of the new edition of the Rig-Veda, with the Commentary of Sāyaṇākārya, is finished, and will be laid before the International Congress of Orientalists at Stockholm by Prof. Max Müller. The new edition is printed at the expense of His Highness Sir Pasupati Ananda Gajapati Raz of Vizianagram. Several new MSS. have been collated, and considerable emendations have been made in the text. Prof. Max Müller has secured the assistance of Dr. Winternitz; and it is hoped that the four volumes, consisting of about 1000 pages quarto, will be ready in three years.

*Sinhalese Literature.*—Members of the Royal Asiatic and Pali Text Societies may be interested to know that, while English scholars have been “lingering shivering on the brink” of the “Ocean” of stories in the Jātaka-book, the Sinhalese translation has completed its third part and 520th page. Other publications of scholarly interest recently printed in Ceylon are editions of the Visuddhimagga, with two unpublished commentaries, and the Horābharṇa, Sanskrit with Sinhalese translation; also new editions of the Abhidhammathasangaha, Vuttodaya, and Çabdabinduva.—C. BENDALL.

*The American Oriental Society* has sent out circulars to its members instructing them to gather all obtainable information concerning Oriental manuscripts in the public and private libraries of America, with a view of publishing a complete catalogue of such, as is done by the great libraries of Europe. The information to be gathered is intended to include all the ancient and modern languages and dialects of Asia, with those of Egypt and Ethiopia, without regard to the subject-matter, the character of the writing, material, state of preservation, and the length or size of them.

*Antiquarian Treasures.*—A resolution appears in the *Gazette of India* dealing with the preservation of anti-

quarian treasures. Previous resolutions are quoted, which show that the Government has never claimed any infeasible rights in archæological objects, and that no such right could be asserted without legislation. The present resolution, however, says:—This is true in regard to all objects of archæological interest of which the discovery could not be brought within the scope of the Treasure Trove Act. But it appears to the Governor-General in Council that a material portion of discovered antiquities will be ascertained on inquiry to have been found in circumstances which would bring them under the provisions of Act VI. of 1878. Such will be the case in respect to all ownerless antiquities of any value “hidden in the soil, or in anything affixed thereto.” Statuary and remains of buildings, as well as coins, would, if buried underground, usually satisfy the required conditions, and could be classed as treasure under the definition of the Act which, as indicated by the extracts quoted in the Appendix, was intended by its framers to apply to objects of antiquarian interest discovered below the surface of the soil. Indeed, the definition of treasure as framed in the original Bill was enlarged by the Select Committee for the express purpose of covering sculptures and similar antiquities as well as coins. The Treasure Trove Act permits the Government to claim the possession of treasure of which, as laid down in Section 4 of the Act, the amount of value is over ten rupees. Such “value” is not, as in Section 16, the price which the mere materials of the article found would fetch, but the market value or the price which the discovered object might, if offered for sale, reasonably be presumed to realize. The conditions under which the finder of treasure is to be compensated in cases where the claim of Government is asserted are described in Section 16 of the Act. The value at which the treasure is to be assessed is there defined as the value of the materials only, plus one-fifth of such value. The extra price which the discovered article might realize in virtue of its value as an object of archæological interest need not enter into account. It will not therefore be difficult to secure for

preservation in national institutions the most important antiquities which may be discovered in any part of British India, without inordinate expenditure. The Governor-General in Council now desires that the conditions under which the Government can claim articles of antiquarian interest should be made generally known, as well to the officials upon whom the responsibility rests of giving effect to the provision of the Treasure Trove Act as to the general public. His Excellency in Council is convinced that the Local Governments and Administrations will, on every occasion on which it may be considered proper to exercise the rights conferred by the law upon the State, act with proper consideration for the natural claims and expectations of the finders of treasure, and will bear in mind that the object in view will be defeated if those who may discover objects of Archæological value are not induced by the prospect of a sufficient reward to make their discoveries known to the officials of Government. On the other hand, it must be enjoined on all servants of the State that it is their duty to protect national interests so far as to ascertain the particulars of any discovery which may be brought to their notice, and to report the circumstances to the proper authorities under such rules and instructions as may be laid down for their guidance by the Local Government or Administration.

#### V. REVIEWS.

ELEMENTARY ARABIC. Part I. By F. D. Thornton. (Allen and Co.)

So well-intended, almost sympathetic, and, in some sense, ingeniously expressed an exposition of Elementary Arabic as that of Mr. Frederic Dupré Thornton, deserves every encouragement, but even the author himself would perhaps feel as much surprise as gratification to find his method of instruction approved in every respect by the majority of scholars and students whom it may concern. To facilitate the study of the language in question, with its mathematically precise