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Class．With the Easy Arithmetical Solution of those Rules，constituting a Key to the Catechism of the Steam Engine．Illustrated by Sixty－seven Wood－cuts and Nu－ merous Tables and Examples．By John Bourne，C．E．， ise on the Screw Propeller，＂＂A Catechism of the Steam Engine．＂New Edition．Philadelphia ：J．B．Lippincott \＆Co．London：Longman \＆Co．
This edition of a well－known popular and standərd work contains little Hat is new，yet it is none the less valuable on that account．The reasons Why there could not be many additions are so well set forth in the author＇s instructive preace that we copy a portion as the best notice we can give
of the book．Ar．Bournc says：＂In this tiirid edition of the present work，I have mercly corrected some typograpnical and arithmeti－ ical；errors，which had escaped detection in the e：rrier issucs， and the existence of some of which has been brought to my knowledge by corre－ spondents．Since the appearance of the first edition，there have been no improvements in the steam engine of any importince；and in the Paris
Extibition of 1867 ，the machinery departunent of wlich $I$ car cfully inspect． ed，I found that although meveh strained and fantastic ingenuity was dis． played in manyof the engines exhibited，there was in point of fact nothinx to be scen that could be accounted a solid and peruanent improvement． Formany years past，indeed，I have ceased to expect the realization of ward to is its early superscssion by less cumbrous and costly motors． With this conviction I have undertaken a new quarto work on＇Stcam，Air， and Gas Engines，＇which treats of all kinds of motive power engincs，and which，reviewing all the reasonable expedien ts which hive been proposed for obtaining motive power，discusses their comparative merits，speciites what expedients have been arain and agun published or long ago patent－ and points out in what direction improvement must adyauce to attain results superior to any that have yet been realized．To carry improvement forward，two things are neccessary ；1st．That there shall be a clear concep－ tion of what it is desirable to effect；and 2d．That there slaill be an ac－ curate knowledse of whit expedients arc available for carrying such im－
provement out without being lundered at every step by the wide and mbiruous ou without bein， ity invente nothing that was not notorious and obsolete long before they appeared upon the field．＂
Cosmology．By George M＇livaine Ramsay，M．D．Published by William White \＆Co．，Bos ton．
We donot like to be unjast，nor to censure without cause．We cannot， nowever，commend this work．The author las altoge ther to much poetry
n his composition for a philosopher．That he has taken a rather large con－ tract upon his hands the reader can judge from the following extract from on page 15：＂olh，man，buckle on thy whole mental armor，and strive get thee back upon the chimes of time，to a period anterior to
the sun＇s existence，to the sun＇s formation；to a period when there was no light，and there in deep，deep darkness and solitude，let thy non－created mind contemplate the yct uncreated，visibleuniverse．Per－
chancethou mayst feel the first tiny alow of heat：or see the first flicker of light by the pewers of which two primordial atoms of matter were ousted from their eternity of rest and were inade to unite in one，and thuis
creation wous begun．＂Thesc last italics are our own．It will be seen that when the author＂gets his whole mental armor buckled on，＂he hopes to know，and presumably that his readers having read his book，will know
all about it－it meaning creation，not the book．This journey＂back upon all about it－it meaning creation，not the book．This journey＂back upon
the chimes of time to belicid the first two primordial atoms of matter the chimes of time te bello ld the first two primordial atoms of matter
oustrd＂would，doubtless，be a very pleasaiat trip，and perhaps profitabic， but the author will excuse us for a litule timiditity as to the undertaking． of time＂beiore they we：e fully aware of what he was going to do with them，the excursion might not be in reality so formidable as this very poetic programme malkes it appear．In short．to be serious，the author＇s which he deals．The book may have merit，but we fear that others will share the prejudices which such pasaages as the one quoted inevitably a waken．
Nathan Read：His Invention of the Multi－Tubular Boiler， and Portable High－Pressure Engine，and Discovery of the True Mode of Applying Steam Power to Navigation and Railways．A Contribution to the Early History of the
Steamboat and Locomotive Engine．By his Friend and Steamboat and Locomotive Engine．By his Friend and
Nephew，David Read．New York：Hurd \＆Houghton． Cambridge：Riverside Press．
There is little doubt that many entitled to a large share of the credit due tothose whohave been instrumentalin the development of the appli－
cation of stcam to the propulsion of machinery，culminating in the stcam railway，and the majestic ocean steamer of modern times，have not re ceived their dues in this respect，and that others have been overpaid by a grateful posterity．The simple love of justice will therefore impel the candid reader to cxamine the present work with attention．The author a share of gratcful remembrance and has，moreover，given many inter esting and important particulars relating to the in ventions of others．The book isa small octavo，printed and bound in a very neat and tasty style． It will be found decidedly interesting，both in the matters of fact it con－ tains and the styce in which they are preschtea．We pabish，in another column
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