

LITERARY CHAT.

BY DANVERS HAMBER.

SEVERAL books about Egypt and the Egyptians have made their appearance since the defeat of the Khalifa Abdallah by Sir Francis Wingate's force last November. Mr. Silva White in his *Expansion of Egypt*, published by Methuen and Co., gives a thoroughly accurate and carefully complete account of what Great Britain has done for the country since she stepped in and prevented the absolute ruin that threatened the land of the Fellah. It is reported that Nubar Pasha once said that Egypt's greatest needs were justice and water. Mr. White's book proves that the English gave the people justice, and that the water question is always receiving attention which is ever increasing. The author tells how the arduous work has been carried out, notwithstanding tremendous difficulties, and he shows how British perseverance surmounted the obstacles formed by the long continued system of bribery and corruption that bid fair to sap the fertile country of its vitality. Mr. White believes in Egypt for the English, he will hear nothing of evacuation, for under British influence the country of the Pharaohs is indeed a land of promise. Mr. W. Basil Worsfold has written an entertaining work on Egypt entitled *The Redemption of Egypt*. It is profusely illustrated with beautiful reproductions, reflecting the highest credit on the publisher, George Allen. Like Mr. White, Mr. Worsfold is intensely patriotic, and seeing that Great Britain has done so much for Egypt, he says: "Those Englishmen who think it right to assume an apologetic air when they refer to the continued presence of England in Egypt are either ignorant of the facts, or misinterpret the principles of inter-

national morality upon which censures are based." The book is really a description of a recent travel through the country, and it must be said that Mr. Worsfold recounts his experiences and formulates his conclusions in excellent manner.

At the beginning of the year the Egyptian Exploration Fund published the Second Part of the *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, edited by Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt. There is a wealth of material for the classical scholar, who will find that the decipherers of the *papyrus* have performed their task most admirably. The difficulties they had to overcome and the merit of their work can be estimated by a careful examination of the photographs which are reproduced, showing the state of the original documents which had to be interpreted. Those poor mortals of the nineteenth—or is it the twentieth?—century who suffer from neuralgia or the tortures of toothache, and are continually being told that those afflictions are entirely modern complaints, may perhaps find consolation here. The ancient Greeks suffered from ear-ache. A miscellaneous fragment of *papyrus*, evidently part of a collection of Greek medical prescriptions, contains a few certain cures for ear-ache: "Dilute some gum with balsam of lilies, and add honey and rose extract. Twist some wool with the oil in round a probe, warm, and drop in"; "Pound Myrrh and alum in equal quantities and insert"; "Rinse with warm onion juice." Down to the present day the heart of a boiled onion is said to be a specific for an excruciating ear-ache,