the latest fashion of referring the origin of everything singular, connected with Chinese antiquity, in the first instance to Babylonia, Dr. Edkins labours to show that these trinitarian and cosmogonic notions of Lao Tsze were derived from Babylonia. 'In his time,' says Dr. Edkins, 'Babylonian astronomy, astrology, cosmography and cosmogony were probably spread much more widely in India than in China. But they had not at that date assumed a decided Hindoo shape. They passed through India and beyond it in a form which was still Babylonian.'

In No. 8, Mr. Parker promulgates 'another small step in advance' which he appears to have made in his painstaking philological studies. The new step consists in the discovery of the following rule :—'All Chinese words adopted into Corean which, in Chinese, are in the departing tone, have long vowels ; and all Chinese words adopted into Corean which, in Chinese, are in the even tone, have short vowels.' Mr. Parker adds that this system runs through the whole imported Chinese language and that the fact is of the very utmost importance as a key which must sooner or later disclose many mysteries.

No. 9 contains a brief notice of Dr. Legge's Li Ki from the pen of Dr. Edkins, who considers Dr. Legge's translation to be carefully done and such as will bear examination.

E. J. E.

The Chinese Government.—A Manual of Chinese Titles categorically arranged and explained, with an appendix. By W. F. Mayers, Second Edition. With additions by G. M. H. Playfair. Kelly and Walsh (Shanghai, Hongkong and Yokohama), 1886.

We hail with pleasure this reprint of one of the most useful handbooks of the student of Chinese, especially as a competent hand has undertaken the task of supplementing the late Mr. Mayers' work with reference to points which, through administrative and other changes brought about by lapse of time since the original work appeared, required correction or additions. It would, of course, have served the interests of the general reader better if the additions and emendations thus necessitated could have been embodied in a thorough revision of the whole of Mayers' work. But, we suppose, vested interests stood in the way and, as a matter of fact, the present arrangement, which leaves the original work untouched and embodies the needful addenda et corrigenda in two separate articles, from the pen of Mr. Playfair, is, though cumbersome for purposes of reference, still of very great practical usefulness. As it is, the book opens with Mayers' original preface and table of contents. Next follows a reprint of an article published on the first appearance of Mayers' book, in the *China Review*, 1878, Vol. VI., p. 242, in which Mr. Playfair, while putting prominently forward the excellencies of Mayers' work, suggests a number of valuable additions and emendations. Next follows Mr. Playfair's introduction to the second edition, a long list of further addenda and corrigenda and an alphabetical Chinese index. Then comes Mayers' original work, reprinted without alteration from the edition of 1878, followed by the original index of Chinese characters.

E. J. E.

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