

For knowledge, with a loftier wisdom fraught ?  
 Is it all vain, as some will surely say,  
     Speaking hours squandered by a mind possessed,  
     Showing powers shattered on a fruitless quest,  
 While the dark breaks not into dawn of day ?

“There is a budding morrow in midnight,”  
     Sang silken-tongued a poet 'mid grey youth :  
 So, in Seclusion's hour of scantiest light,  
     May flicker faint, for all the scholar's ruth,  
 Some secret flame that shall by radiance bright  
     Flood with calm glory his long road to Truth.

LONDON, England

ELLIS THURTELL.

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 BOOK REVIEWS.

THE WORLD AND THE INDIVIDUAL. Gifford Lectures, delivered before the University of Aberdeen. First Series, the Four Historical Conceptions of Being. By *Josiah Royce*, Ph. D., Professor of the History of Philosophy in Harvard University. New York and London : The Macmillan Company. 1900. Pages, xvi, 588.

A decided *penchant* for metaphysics will be necessary to enjoy Prof. Royce's work. It is the boom of the heavy siege-guns of philosophy that reverberate through his pages, not the rippling crack of its light field-artillery. And this is precisely as Prof. Royce would have it. He terms his method "thoroughgoing philosophical inquiry," as opposed to what we might call intelligible superficial inquiry, declares that it is useless "to defend its methods to people who by nature or by training are opposed to it," and addresses himself to "the still open-hearted inquirers" whom God in his grace has specially endowed with philosophical comprehension.

The essays of the volume are Gifford Lectures, and the first series only of the two to be delivered. "Lord Gifford's will," says Professor Royce, "calls upon his lecturers for a serious treatment of some aspect of the problems of Natural Religion. These problems themselves are of the most fundamental sort; and in this first series I have not seen my way clear to attempting anything less than a philosophical inquiry into first principles."

In this philosophical inquiry he has remained true to the position which he originally assumed in his thinking, "that the very conditions which make finite error possible concerning objective truth can be consistently expressed only by means of an idealistic theory of the Absolute." Since that time, he has struggled to come to clearness as to "the relations of Idealism to the special problems of human life and destiny". "Thought" was the term which he first hit upon as the best name for the final unity of the Absolute,—Thought as inclusive of Will and of Experience. But these latter aspects of the Absolute Life were not sufficiently emphasised by him formerly, a task which he now proposes to do in the present work, which is "a deliberate effort to bring into synthesis, more fully than before, the relations of Knowledge and of Will in our conception of God."

It is also to be noted that whereas formerly in Prof. Royce's system the term Thought "as applied to the Absolute, referred not only to finite processes of thinking, but also, and expressly, to the inclusive Whole of Insight, *in* which both truth and value are attained, not as objects beyond Thought's ideas, but as appreciated and immanent fulfillment or expression of all the purposes of finite Thought," now

he uses the term Thought "as a name for the process by which we define or describe objects viewed as *beyond* or as *other than* the process whereby they are defined or described." The aim which Prof. Royce sets himself will now be clear. The book contains ten chapters, of which the titles are as follows: 1. Introduction: The Religious Problems and the Theory of Being; 2. Realism and Mysticism in the History of Thought; 3. The Independent Beings: A Critical Examination of Realism; 4. The Unity of Being, and the Mysterious Interpretation; 5. The Outcome of Mysticism, and the World of Modern Critical Rationalism; 6. Validity and Experience; 7. The Internal and External Meaning of Ideas; 8. The Fourth Conception of Being; 9. Universality and Unity; 10. Individuality and Freedom

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The May issue of *The Biblot* is *A Song to David*, by Christopher Smart, edited by Prof. Charles F. Richardson, and supplemented by a portrait of the poet from an edition of 1791. Robert Browning is responsible for the resuscitation of Smart's poem which, as the editor of the present edition informs us, "remained considerably more than a century a mere title in English bibliography." In *the Shadows*, a poem in sonnets by David Gray, a young Scotch poet, who was born in 1838 and died in 1861, "not knowing what it was to live," forms the June issue of *The Biblot*. It is the production of an invalid, a genuine poem of pain, "never widely read," according to the confession of the editor, "and still less likely to be read in the future." Nevertheless, the verses are musical and many of them thoughtful. *The Field Play*, a story of the cruelty and bitterness of certain phases of English peasant life, by Richard Jeffries, is the July issue. (Five cents each.)

The Baker & Taylor Company of New York have issued a new edition of the Swami Vivekânanda's *Vedânta Philosophy*. It treats of the Râja Yoga, or the method of attaining the knowledge which is the essence of religious bliss. One of the main exercises, for example, is the drawing in of a column of air through *Idâ*, the left nostril, sending at the same time a nerve-current down the spinal column and causing the current to bump violently upon the solar plexus, which is the basic lotus and also incidentally the place where Fitzsimmons smote the renowned Yogi Corbett; all of which culminates in the rising of *Kundalini*, which rising is the beginning of knowledge. We refrain from epitomising the remaining stages for attaining true enlightenment. It only remains to mention that we learn for the first time from this book that love is like a triangle; why it is not like a quadrangle, or a pentagon, or an icosahedron, which would be far more Platonic, the author has not vouchsafed to say. (Pages, 381.)

The Rev. Dr. Frederic Rowland Marvin has collected under the title, *Last Words of Distinguished Men and Women*, much curious and interesting matter relating to the last hours of the great men and women of the world. The matter is alphabetically arranged and accompanied by a comprehensive and carefully prepared index. The mechanical execution of the book leaves little to be desired, the work having been printed by the De Vinne Press of New York on specially manufactured paper, and from large and clear type. The edition is limited to 500 copies. The publishers are C. A. Brewster & Co., of Troy, N. Y. (Price, \$2.00.)

The sixth volume to be published by Fords, Howard, & Hulbert, of New York, in their *Nuggets* series, is a collection of passages gathered from five of the most celebrated authors of the post-Elizabethan period: Dr. Thomas Fuller, church

historian, wit, and moralist, said by Coleridge to have been incomparably the most sensible and least prejudiced of the many great men of his age; Bishop Joseph Hall, the famous divine; John Selden, lawyer and parliamentarian; George Herbert, scholar, preacher, and poet; and lastly Izaak Walton, philosopher and fisherman. From the antique flavor and oddity of the utterances collected in the volume, the little book bears the title of *Quaint Nuggets*. A portrait of Fuller adorns the title-page. The compiler is Eveline Warner Brainerd. (Pages, 136. Price, 45c.)

The first volume of the *Studi Glottologici Italiani*, edited by Giacomo de Gregorio, professor of comparative history of the classical and Neo-Latin tongues in the University of Palermo, and issued on the occasion of the twelfth International Congress of Orientalists, contains articles by Prof. De Gregorio on the etymology and lexicography of the Romance languages, with special reference to the Sicilian dialects, and also contributions by R. Sabbadini, M. La Via, and M. Niedermann on cognate subjects. (Price, L. 10. Turin: Ermanno Loescher.)

### HOMO ALALUS.

Rude forefather of Nature's Masterpiece,  
 Progenitor of man, tho' not yet man,  
 How oft, in fancy rapt, through forests wild  
 I've strode beside thee in the noble chase,  
 Or at thy savage meal unbidden sat,  
 Or, mayhaps, couched with thee in murky cave.  
 And oft, too, have I thought—if thou hadst felt,  
 A moment e'en, the meaning of thy past,  
 Or vision got of ages yet unborn,  
 As brutishly thou sought to comprehend  
 The whence of man and his great destiny,  
 A thrill had shot thy rugged frame throughout,  
 And reason's light streamed instant from thine eyes.

L. L. RICE.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

### NOTES.

By an oversight the name of Henry Ridgely Evans, now of the Department of Education at Washington and a contributor to *The Cosmopolitan Magazine*, was omitted in the last two numbers of *The Open Court* as the joint contributor to the book entitled *Magic*, published by Munn & Co., of New York. Mr. Evans wrote the introduction to the work, and also the chapters on mental magic and shadowgraphy. The quotations on pages 426 and 427 were also from his pen.

A philosophical society, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan has been organized in Detroit by Mr. Louis J. Rosenberg, an attorney of that city. Its purpose is to encourage the study of philosophy; and lectures and papers by professors from the University of Michigan and by many other prominent thinkers have been announced.