

worlds, which form the most interesting matter of the volume, are within the reach of any reader of philosophical and scientific taste, who will be repaid by the review of the facts here presented, whether they engage his assent or incur his condemnation. Personally, our sympathies are not enlisted by atomistic speculations; but Madame Royer's atomism is not the orthodox atomism of Epicurus, attacked by Stallo and Mach, to the former of whom she frequently refers in her animadversions; it is Madame Royer's own theory of a fluid atom, expansive and repulsive, dispensing with empty space, and held capable of effecting by its vibrations all the sensible phenomena of light, heat, and sound. It forms the basis of an hypothesis which binds together all the known laws of physics, chemistry, and biology, and enables us to reach deductively the theory of their specific phenomena; embraces even, in its mechanistic net, the phenomena of biology, by sketching the probable mode of constitution of the cell and the probable course of the transformation of matter and ether into living substance; and supplants finally the impossible mechanism of gravitational attraction, referring the movements of the stars to thermal causes.

It will be seen that Madame Royer's book is a *Natur philosophic* of the purest water. It is nevertheless aglow with faith in science and a firm belief in the solubility of its problems; it is the pronounced antagonist of scientific agnosticism in any form; and as such it must command our unqualified admiration, be our critical opinion of its tenets what it will.

T. J. McC.

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#### INVOCATION.

Eternal Good! Or if by other name  
 We know Thee best,—source of power and light,—  
 We reach in quest of that beyond our sight;—  
 Perfection's gift from other never came.

We do not ask for any selfish thing;  
 To change great Nature's plans if we should try,  
 Our works and wishes all would quickly die;—  
 We would not dictate to so wise a King!

Within our hearts we only crave the best  
 Which will arouse a great and good desire  
 For high, eternal truth, e<sup>n</sup> writ in fire;—  
 We humbly take whate'er is Thy behest!

EDWARD WILLIAM DUTCHER.

STILLWATER, MINN.

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#### THE SCHOOL AND SOCIETY.

A more ideal and fascinating scheme of elementary education than that projected by Prof. John Dewey, of the University of Chicago, in his *School and Society*, a little book of which the second edition was issued last year by the Chicago University Press, can scarcely be imagined. It embodies the ideas of the acutest modern educational critics, it is the incorporation of what has suggested itself as