

followed by the Mantra and concluding with HUM, is whispered reverently and secretly; at the same time the fingers form the special Mudra (mystic sign) representing the Sanskrit written character appropriate; and the worshipper concentrates the thoughts on the contemplation of the esoteric doctrine, or subject-matter. This triple formula has esoteric signification only taught to initiates; and the manipulation of the Mudra is concealed by the loose sleeves of the robes or cassock.

KOBE; JAPAN.

C. PFOUNDERS.

BOOK REVIEWS.

CONSTRUCTIVE STUDIES IN THE PRIESTLY ELEMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. An Aid to Historical Study for Use in Advanced Bible Classes. By *William R. Harper*, Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Chicago. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1902. Pages, 162. Price, cloth, \$1.00.

President Harper continues his quiet but effective work in disseminating the most approved results of the Higher Criticism, and in laboring toward a deeper and broader comprehension of the nature and history of the Old Testament. The present work, which is now in its revised edition, includes a comprehensive study of everything pertaining to the work of the priest in the Old Testament as distinguished from that of the sage and the prophet. The book is to serve as "a guide for students who wish to take up the questions relating to this subject, from an historical point of view. The materials for a preliminary study of the various topics are gathered together, and arranged with suggestions as to order and method of procedure." The work is thus intended for advanced pupils in Sunday schools as well as for use in colleges and theological seminaries. "The general results of modern historical criticism have been taken as a basis for the work," on the ground that it is only from the point of view of history that these subjects can now be considered intelligently. The general scope of the priestly element in the Old Testament is indicated by Professor Harper, and the history of worship, of sacrifices, feasts, and prayers, is considered in detail. The references to the literature are extensive, and the manual furnishes the directions necessary for a thorough study of the part which priestly history and priestly activity played in the Old Testament.

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THE LEVEL OF SOCIAL MOTION. An Inquiry Into the Future Conditions of Human Society. By *Michael A. Lane*. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1902. Pages, vii, 577. Price, \$2.00.

Mr. Lane's conclusions are deep and comprehensive, and he has moved rapidly and unerringly to them. He believes that human society is speedily approaching a state of equality "very similar in all essentials to that which is advocated by socialist philosophers as the ideal of a genuinely Christian life," and that under the influence of forces which are entirely normal and scientific in their character. He is of the opinion that the brain of civilised women is increasing in weight, and that men and women will in the end be intellectually equal or nearly so; that the human population of the earth is moving with increasing velocity "toward a mean or normal number which when once reached can never again be disturbed;" and finally that the inferior races will ultimately be eliminated from the earth, not by war or by pestilence, but by the general diffusion of wealth and education.

These are, in bare and unpalpated form, the tenets of the book, and the author has pretty well covered the historical, biological, and sociological considerations

usually brought into action for the fortification of social theories. We m.ss greatly, however, an index. μ.

Political students desirous of studying the important subject of the development of cabinet government in England will find the subject interestingly and carefully treated in a work of that title, by Mary Taylor Blauvelt, M. A. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1902. Pages, xvi, 300. Price, \$1.50.)

C. C. Birchard & Co., of Boston, have published "a collection of songs and choruses representative of the best musical art of the world," but especially of the art of contemporary American composers. The editor of the collection is W. L. Tomlins, and the title *The Laurel Song Book for Advanced Classes in Schools, Academies, Choral Societies, etc.* The poems forming the text of the work represent nearly all the great lyrical writers of English-speaking peoples. We find here such names as Chaucer, Beaumont and Fletcher, Shakespeare, Milton, Goldsmith, Keats, Burns, William Blake, Coleridge, Scott, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Browning, Stevenson, Kipling, etc., not to speak of the great composers of foreign countries. America is very well represented, inasmuch as it has been the special purpose of the editor to give full recognition to the writers of his own country. We find thus such names as the following in the collection: Fitz-Greene Halleck, Bayard Taylor, Walt Whitman, Lowell, Cooper, Emerson, Holmes, Poe, and Whittier, not to mention minor celebrities. The book is one that should appeal to every lover of minstrelsy, and is eminently adapted for use in the home as well as in schools. It contains 324 pages and is clearly and well printed.

NOTES.

The various Summer Schools now connected with our universities and other institutions of learning throughout the country have for years been affording to persons interested in education and general culture advantages and inspiration which formerly were altogether lacking. Vacations are now spent by teachers and professional men in obtaining the recreation which comes from a change of intellectual pursuit, as well as from that of purely physical activity and rest. The current numbers of *The Open Court* being almost exclusively devoted to topics related to the history of religion, and therefore likely to be widely read by people interested in religious matters, we take advantage of this fact to call attention to the prospectus of the Harvard Summer School of Theology, organised in 1899 by the divinity faculty of Cambridge, Mass., and having as its object "to provide a place where clergymen and students of theology may gather for the study of subjects which have intrinsic and current theological interest, and where they may feel the inspiration which comes from direct contact with the best and most recent results of modern scholarship." The lectures promise also to be interesting to teachers in schools and colleges and in the more advanced classes in Sunday schools. The libraries and other collections of Harvard University will be open to students of the Summer School, as will also the Semitic Museum, which will be of special value to those interested in Biblical studies. Letters of inquiry may be addressed to the Secretary of the Divinity Faculty, Rev. Robert S. Morison, Divinity Library, Cambridge, Mass.