

We are in receipt of an offprint from Studies in Honor of Basil Lanneau Guildersleeve, entitled *The Symbolic Gods*, by Maurice Bloomfield. In this pamphlet Professor Bloomfield proves that the philosophy of Euhemerus is by no means so shallow as it is commonly represented, a fact which is proved by the worship of both heroes and the chthonic gods. Yama is first a king, then king of the dead, and finally a god. Mr. Bloomfield finds that there is a tendency in man to personify abstractions, thus producing what he calls the "symbolic gods." A flagrant instance of this kind of personification of abstract conceptions is found in the Zoroastrian Ameshaspents, but it is done also in more remote antiquity, for even such cases as Agni or Zeus owe their origin to abstraction and personification. An abstract quality is considered as something solipsistic, as a thing *per se*; and by and by it acquires the qualities of a living personality. The names (*nama*) and the essence of things (*rupa*) are somehow never held apart by the Hindus, and therefore names are at once taken to be objective realities. The essay is interesting, and shows a deep insight into the psychology of religion.

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A new work on Egypt by E. A. Wallis Budge, Keeper of the Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities in the British Museum, has been published under the title *A History of Egypt from the End of the Neolithic Period to the Death of Cleopatra VII. B. C. 30*. The work gives an elaborate survey of the history of Egypt during this period, in eight richly illustrated volumes, with good map and index. The reputation of the author is a sufficient guarantee that we have here a reliable source of information, Egyptology being a branch of learning in which he has distinguished himself as one of the foremost of investigators. The work is published by Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., of London, who are represented in America by Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press, American branch. The Open Court Publishing Company have made arrangements to supply their patrons. (Price, 8 vols., \$10.00.)

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*Impressions Quarterly* is the name of a new periodical published by Paul Elder and Morgan Shepard, of San Francisco. It is a large quarto printed on deep cream paper. The body of the text consists of eighteen pages, and contains in addition two artistic leaflets printed in red, green, and gold. The leading article is on "The Rise of Ukiyo-ye," the name of a modern Japanese art school following the impressionist style. All the other articles, and the poems, are short; among them we notice one entitled "A Little Trip to Utopia," and another "The Things That Abide," the latter by A. T. Murray. (Price, 50 cents per year; single copies, 15 cents.)

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Peter Eckler, of New York, publishes *A Rebuttal of Spiritism et al.* by J. K. Hayward. The author imparts many rude shocks, not only to spiritism, but also to such dearly cherished illusions as that Shakespeare, whom he calls the "Stratford malster," wrote his own plays, or that David Hume could write intelligible English. The book is in the main a demolition of the "philosophy" of John Bascom. It is a large book to devote to such a purpose, but the author has said in his discursions many forcible things. (Pp., 457. Price, \$1.50.)

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#### NOTES.

May 25th being the centenary of Emerson's birth, Mr. Conway's reminiscential article in the present number will be found particularly appropriate.