

lazy and indolent in everything is punished by being covered with pitch, and whenever she speaks, a toad jumps out of her mouth.

The world of the departed is frequently depicted as the land beyond the river and a little nursery rhyme suggests the idea that we know nothing of the existence of the other shore.

"Gray goose and gander, waft your wings together.  
And carry the good king's daughter over the onestrand river."<sup>1</sup>

As the rhyme reads now it has become unintelligible. But it appears that that power in nature which mates gander and goose is indispensable for crossing the one strand river.

The religious element is most obvious in the story of Eros and Psyche, an English version of which is preserved in the tale of Beauty and the Beast. The connexion in which Death stands to Love in these stories of ages long past is full of deep thought and suggests the idea that Death, which appears as a monster, a beast, a terror, is after all a friendly power, a kind friend, a blessing. The interrelation that obtains between birth and death was felt by primitive man perhaps more keenly than by later generations. The aged, the crippled, the weary of life go to rest, but so long as love prevails mankind does not die out, *und immer circulirt ein junges, frisches Blut.*<sup>2</sup>

This observation of the close interrelation between death and love is the central idea of Eros and Psyche, which, judging from the monuments, was very popular in ancient Greece but has been preserved only in the version of Apuleius, as told in his romance *The Golden Ass*. If the redactor of the story as here retold in *The Open Court*, has brought out with more emphasis the *Leitmotiv*, by a few additional touches, he believes he has remained faithful to the spirit of the narrative and hopes to have thereby succeeded in setting in relief the serious nature of the story and the religious comfort that underlies this most exquisite production of human fiction.

P. C.

### BOOKS ON HISTORY.

Mr. Goldwin Smith has written a splendid review of the political history of England in his *United Kingdom* (New York and London: The Macmillan Co. 1899, two vols., \$4.00). Mr. Smith's works are all noted for the simplicity and clearness of their style, and those who wish to obtain a lucid, connected, and succinct view of English history can do no better than to turn to these pages. They will find Mr. Smith's exposition both critical and impartial.

The second volume of Mr. Thos. E. Watson's *Story of France* has appeared. If one desires entertainment in the reading of history, one will certainly find it in this volume. Anecdote and quotation are skilfully mingled with narrative, and throughout the whole there runs an incessant fire of sarcastic moral comment. The attitude of Mr. Watson towards the history of France is, in fact, eminently that of a moral castigator; his task is to him one of conscience; he is extremely plain and outspoken in his censorial utterances, as he is also in his inferential descriptions of the reigning vices of the old *régime*: and he always points his moral at the expense of the possible facts, whatever may be the situation. The student of the sources of French history will not always be at one with Mr. Watson as to the rel-

<sup>1</sup> See *Book of Nursery Rhymes*, Methuen & Co., 36 Essex Street, Strand, W. C. London, 1897, page 89.

<sup>2</sup>*Faust*, Prologue.

ative weight of the records which he has used; nor will it be at all in the reader's power to exercise a critical judgment upon the opinions presented. The book, in fine, is decidedly personal in its presentation and tone, yet it has lost on that account none of its fascination for the reader; in this regard we think Mr. Watson has been more successful than in his first volume even. The narrative, or rather portrayal, ceases with the consulate of Napoleon. (New York: The Macmillan Co. Pages, 1076. Price, \$2.50.)

The excellence of the work done in history at Cornell University is well known and we are glad to announce the publication of a *Syllabus of a Course of Eighty-Seven Lectures on Modern European History (1600-1890)* by Prof. H. Morse Stephens (New York: The Macmillan Co.; Pp., 319; Price, \$1.60), which will be found not only to furnish a good idea of the scope and character of the course given at Cornell on Modern History, but also to be of great value to the independent student. It is more than a chronology, and, lacking the narrative, bears some resemblance to Ploetz's well known and admirable epitome of Universal History. A feature which is alone worth the price of the book is the bibliographies, the lists of sources, and the tables of European rulers.

The new and revised edition of Mr. John G. Allen's *Topical Studies in American History* (New York: The Macmillan Co.; Pages, 93; Price, 40 cents) is a sure indication that the little book has served a good purpose. It is intended to give an intelligent view of the leading facts of our history, to fix in the minds of young students "historical centres," about which everything subordinate can be associated; the means is by "topical studies" used in connexion with sources and memory-lessons. It is in fact more of a teachers' guide than a book for students. The method consists of: (1) "Talks to Create Interest"; (2) "Memory-Lessons," giving brief surveys of the periods; (3) "Topical Work With the Sources." The ethical lessons of history are to be emphasized, and the varied implications of every subject developed to the full. How far these "ethical" implications shall be inculcated (for their character is by no means determinate in every case) will depend on the type of mind and the ethical and political proclivities of author and teacher; the attempt to "inculcate" them sometimes leads to very silly and irreparable results; but the attempt will always be made; and it is a sign of progress that in recent text-books sentimentality and sweetness in this regard have been decidedly on the wane. Mr. Allen has not ventured far in this direction, but has wisely left the ethical conclusions to be drawn from the facts themselves. Good chronological tables have been appended to the volume, the educational hints and devices of which will, we believe, be of value to teachers.

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### KANT AND SPENCER.<sup>1</sup>

This little book by the editor of *The Open Court*, which has just appeared in the Religion of Science Library, is devoted to a refutation of the principles of Spencerian Agnosticism and to the elucidation of certain basic problems of philosophy on the ground of a discussion of Mr. Spencer's miscomprehension of Kant. The first essay treats of the "Ethics of Kant," which defends Kant from the charge of having championed a supernatural and unevolutionary view of the ethical prob-

<sup>1</sup> Kant and Spencer. A Study of the Fallacies of Agnosticism. By Dr. Paul Carus. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd. Pages, 105. Price, 20c. (18.)