

kept in his country-house near Paris, an important historical and critical volume,¹ which examines this whole subject in a most thorough and judicial manner.

The aim of Mr. Vignaud's work is to prove that the authenticity of Toscanelli's map, letter, and correspondence with Columbus, has been too readily accepted, and that there are many and very good reasons for believing that Toscanelli did not write the letter of 1474, that he did not make the map which accompanied it,—that both are forgeries,—and that he never had any intercourse with Columbus whatever. Mr. Vignaud goes still further and shows that Columbus's grand conception had quite another origin than the supposed suggestions and advice of this Italian savant, and that the real purpose of the document wrongfully attributed to him was to hide the true source of this conception. THEODORE STANTON.

PARIS, August, 1901.

BOOK NOTICES.

HYPOTHESIS FOR A CEPTACLE THEORY. By *Oren B. Taft*. Chicago: The Lakeside Press. 1900.

The problem of the soul is its unity, and Mr. Oren B. Taft has invented the new name "ceptacle" for it, meaning thereby that which is the "relating of itself to itself within itself in anything." It stands for unity in plurality and produces the consciousness of identity in the ego. The ceptacle, it is claimed, and perhaps rightly so, is "a nature-fact," the question is only whether or not it exists as an entity in itself and without the relations which constitute it. The author seems to take the latter view: at least he describes the origin of ceptacles and their preservation in the development of life. The term "ceptacle" is subject to criticism, because it seems to imply the separate existence of a vessel (a receptacle) and its contents, and that the author does not seem to mean. Another term of doubtful usefulness is the word "intelligence-matter," but the application which is made of it goes far to justify its introduction. Mr. Taft says:

"The first eighteen verses of the chapter of the Gospel of St. John, we take it, is a fundamental statement, from the Christian point of view, of the Spiritual Idea—God in man. From this Ceptacle point of view it will accord equally well as a statement of Antecedent, realising Itself to Itself in its own expression where Idea is 'Flesh' as Intelligence-Matter in evolved human body. The Idea in both is that in Intelligence-Matter it realises its Being as its everlasting Self. Here it is embodied in the individuality of Jesus Christ. In the fulness of this development in this individual Ego-Identity, it knows its Being in an At-One-Ness with itself, as its own Antecedent or Father."

We add that the author is not a philosopher by profession but a business man, being the president of the Pearson-Taft Land Credit Co., which position involves great responsibility and circumspection. And the business world of Chicago knows that Mr. Taft fully deserves the confidence and credit which form the cornerstone of his flourishing business. Philosophers may not find in the book a

¹ *La lettre et la carte de Toscanelli sur la route des Indes par l'Ouest*. Adressées en 1474 au Portugais Fernam Martins et transmises plus tard à Christophe Colomb. Etude critique sur l'authenticité et la valeur de ces documents et sur les sources des idées cosmographiques de Colomb. Suivie des divers textes de la lettre de 1474 avec traductions, annotations et fac-simile. Par Henry Vignaud, premier secrétaire de l'ambassade des Etats-Unis, vice-président de la Société des Américanistes de Paris, vice-président du XII. Congrès des Américanistes, membre de la Société de Géographie de Paris, de la Société des Antiquaires de Worcester, de l'Association Historique de Washington, etc., etc. Paris: Ernest Leroux, éditeur, 28, Rue Bonaparte.

treatment of the psychological problem such as they are accustomed to, but they should not for that reason think less of it, for it is always interesting and instructive to know what a thoughtful man thinks of the soul, its origin, and destiny.

P. C.

A very readable and suggestive little book has recently appeared in the *Citizen's Library of Economics, Politics, and Sociology*, under the title of *Social Control, a Survey of the Foundations of Order*. It is by Edward Alsworth Ross, professor in the University of Nebraska. Its object is to determine "how far the order we see all about us is due to influences that reach men and women from without, that is, *social* influences. . . . Investigation appears to show that the personality freely unfolding under conditions of healthy fellowship may arrive at a goodness all its own, and that order is explained partly by this streak in human nature and partly by the influence of social surroundings." (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pp. 463. Price, \$1.20.)

We could wish that books of the type of Mr. T. N. Toller's *Outlines of the History of the English Language* were in the hands of every student of English. The interest, profit, and intellectual pleasure to be derived from a study of the history of a composite language like English can scarcely be paralleled in the realms of educational and purely literary pursuits, and the broadening effect on the individual of such a study is immeasurable. Mr. Toller's book is similar to that excellent little work on the same subject by Professor Lounsbury, which has long been a standard manual in our academies and colleges. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pp. 284. Price, \$1.10.)

Persons desirous of informing themselves thoroughly on the history of the great diplomatic questions which are now occupying the American public mind, will profit by consulting the recently published work of John B. Henderson, Jr., entitled *American Diplomatic Questions*. Mr. Henderson has thoroughly discussed the five great questions of American diplomacy, namely, "The Fur Seals and Bering Sea Award," "The Interoceanic Canal Problem," "The United States and Samoa," "The Monroe Doctrine," and "The Northeast Coast Fisheries." (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1901. Pages, ix, 529. Price, 10s. 6d.)

Mr. James Wilford Garner's recent work *Reconstruction in Mississippi* gives a detailed study of the political, military, economic, educational, and legal phases attending the recovery of one of the Southern States from the effects of the Civil War. This period of Southern history, while exceedingly interesting and important, is greatly misunderstood in the North, and largely inaccessible. Mr. Garner's work, therefore, is opportune and of value. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pp. 442.)

Correa Moylan Walsh has written a very technical work on *The Measurement of General Exchange-Value*. He has explained and analysed, critically and mathematically, the four kinds of economic value; weighting; the question of means and averages; etc., etc. The volume is a ponderous one and contains an excellent bibliography. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pp. 580. Price, \$3.00.)