

PROPHETS.

The evolutionists teach that before any species came into the world *as a species*, individual beings, prophetic of the coming *kind* of being, appeared.

There was a time, let us suppose, when the highest type of life on earth was something like the dog, in intellectual, physical and moral attributes. The spark was passed on to a new order of being; the intermediate links disappeared; but before that new species appeared *as a species*, isolated cases were known.

And before man appeared as a species there were individual beings prophetic of men. They disappeared; finally, man, as a species, appeared.

Man is evolving into another sort of being in the same manner, and it is only reasonable to suppose that this future species has had its individual forerunners, and will have others. This is the explanation of the Christs and the Buddhas. Indeed, they were prophets.

DON MARQUIS.

 BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

DAS WORT DES BUDDHA. Eine Uebersicht über das ethisch-philosophische System des Buddha in den Worten des Sutta-Pitakam des Pali-Kanons nebst Erläuterungen. Von *Bhikkhu Nanatiloka*. Mit einer Einleitung versehen von *Karl Seidenstücker*. Leipsic: Grieben, 1906.

The interest in Buddhism is spreading, and the present pamphlet has been published by the President of the Buddhist society of Leipsic, Herr Karl Seidenstücker. He prefaces the book by complaining about the gross ignorance and prejudice that are current concerning Buddhism, and declares that it is remarkable how the most suitable world-conception could have been distorted to be mistaken for a mystical and haphazard view like Theosophy, Vedantism and so-called esoteric Buddhism. The author is a native German who became a Buddhist monk and studied under Buddhist priests in Ceylon. His book consists mainly in quotations from the ancient Buddhist canon. The contents are arranged according to Buddhist tradition under the headings of the Four Noble Truths, suffering, the cause of suffering, deliverance from suffering, and the paths that lead to deliverance. These four chapters contain in incidental headings almost all the current Buddhist doctrines. The Pali terms are sufficiently explained in their philological meaning as well as their pronunciation. In its general make-up the book reminds us of the Buddhist hand-book which the Open Court Publishing Company has published under the title *The Dharma*.

Dr. Vittorio Macchioro, of Camerino, Italy, publishes in the *Politisch-Anthropologischen Revue* an article in German on "The anthropological Foundation of the Decay of Rome in the Time of the Cæsars," and attributes the reasons to the mixture of the population of Rome with lower races. This is due partly to the great number of foreigners enlisted in the Roman army, but mainly also to the natives who mixed too freely with the aboriginal Italian families.