

became acquainted, and one feels tempted to assume that the spiritual standing of his own country must be gloriously high. We fear, however, that if the tables were turned and a representative of our materialistic world would visit his own country, he would find there the same love of the almighty dollar, with less success in acquiring it, and even the vaunted spirituality would be dissolved into an illusion. Nevertheless, Mr. Rámanáthan is unquestionably a man of high aspirations, and we will do well to become acquainted with his opinions and religious ideals. His book is well worth the perusal.

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### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

LIFE AFTER LIFE; or the Theory of Reincarnation. By *Eustace Miles, M. A.* London: Methuen, 1907. Pp. 180. Price, 3s. net.

The author would propose for mankind a working hypothesis offering motives for sensible work at once energetic and calm, and for a practical and ethical conduct of life. The theory he advances is that one life in this world follows after another life usually with an interval between (whether of one minute or one hundred and fifty years), and he believes that its adoption would give a sense of infinite hope and infinite responsibility, making us helpers of ourselves and others. He believes that though it may not be materialistically proved true by science it would be true in the sense that it would be safe and sound to use. Mr. Miles says in his preface: "I would ask the reader to recognize its main principle only—namely, that his present circumstances are the fairest possible results of his past lives and his present life up to date, and at the same time the best possible training-ground for his future life and lives. I would ask him not to wait for full proofs, but to begin living daily and hourly as if the theory were proved certainty."

Mr. Miles does not try to force his theory on others, nor does he say that others must believe in it. "I simply say that I must believe it, until I find one that is more useful—one that tends to a better and happier life in this world—one that is more comforting and inspiring."

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It is a familiar fact that the maximum amount of information which can be contained in one volume is best evidenced by *Webster's International Dictionary*, published by the G. and C. Merriam Company. In the enlarged edition recently issued it proves itself amply able to keep abreast with the times by the aid of new appendices and by corrections and insertions in the text, while clear and fresh type is insured by a new set of plates. A feature of the Merriam publications that is not so generally realized consists of seven abridgments, called respectively Webster's Collegiate, Countinghouse, Academic, High School, Common School, Primary and Little Gem Dictionaries. These are abridged and arranged with reference to the peculiar needs of the readers for which each is designed. The Countinghouse Dictionary contains commercial tables in its appendix; the High School and Academic Abridgments have specially prepared vocabularies and contain appendices of mythological, historical and classical interest; the Common School and Primary Dictionaries respell the word with phonetic markings to show pronunciation, and the latter restricts its vocabulary to English words. The Little Gem is a pocket manual of great value.