

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### SPINOZA.

BY J. H. BERKOWITZ

[Written in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the excommunication of Spinoza by the Elders of Amsterdam, July 27, 1656; and inspired by E. E. Powell's *Spinoza and Religion*.]

Scorned by kin; from brother's portal  
Hounded; shunning temple-side,  
No curse so weighty, no plight so great  
To shake his conscientious pride,  
Or his lofty soul to humiliate.  
"Right is might" in his life's a verity  
For, despite oblivious Elders, banning him in rage,  
From age to age into posterity  
His self looms bigger. On History's page  
Is writ of him, the excommunicated  
Infidel, the "God-intoxicated"  
Sage: He loved, he suffered, he's immortal.

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### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE PROGRESS OF THE GERMAN WORKING CLASSES in the Last Quarter of a Century. By *W. J. Ashley*. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1904. Pp. xvi, 164. Price, 1s. 6d. net.

Mr. Ashley is professor of commerce in the University of Birmingham and formerly of Harvard. He has collected the evidence which is the basis of this book partly with the purpose "to clear the air in the fiscal controversy" in England. To those advocates of tariff inaction who argue that the condition of the German people is such as to deter Great Britain from the adoption of a protective tariff, he would show that Germany has actually witnessed a great advance in the well-being of the masses of her people within the last twenty-five years during which time she has also been pursuing a policy of protection. The author explains in his preface that he does not contend that this progress has been due to protection but simply that the tariff policy has not prevented the advance. He thinks too that Germany's example proves that the Social Reform which has been the active cause of much of the improved condition is not "unattainable side by side with a positive policy in the matter of tariffs." He paints the ameliorated conditions of the German working classes in such glowing colors that he thinks it possible that

Germans may think he has overdone the matter, but he shows also the difficulties that have had to be overcome.

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MAGNÉTISME VITAL. Contributions expérimentales à l'étude par le galvanomètre de l'électro-magnétisme vital. Par *Ed. Gasc-Dcsfossés*. Paris: Rudeval, 1907. Pp. 501. Price, 5 fr.

The preface is written by the author's friend E. Boirac, vice-president of the Society of Hypnology and Psychology, and member of the General Psychological Institute. He speaks of the courage it takes to confess to a hostile public "that one sees in the mesmeric hypothesis of animal magnetism a truth, a great unknown truth, and to labor to procure for it the place in science which has been persistently refused to it for more than a century and which it has a right to occupy." In his introduction the author accounts for the systematic hostility of scientific men to his theory from the fact that it is not easy for scientific value to be appreciated when the same phenomena are made use of by charlatans for spectacular exhibitions; and also that an incomplete knowledge tends to produce in certain minds a false and dangerous mysticism. He also quotes the opinions of Cuvier and Laplace that there is a scientific possibility of the hypothesis of vital magnetism. The work as a whole is divided under the general headings Facts, Analogies and Scientific Inferences.

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THE ARGUMENT OF ARISTOTLE'S METAPHYSICS. By *Edith Henry Johnson*, Ph. D. New York: Lemcke and Buechner, 1906. Pp. 186.

Mrs. Alvin S. Johnson has performed a real service to students of philosophy in thus sifting out the main currents of Aristotle's thought as given in his *Metaphysics*, and presenting them in logical form without criticism or comment and without entering into details of historical origin or textual criticism. After an Introductory chapter the book treats of Preliminary Inquiries; The Scope of Philosophy; The Problem of Philosophy; Primal Existence; The Unity of Matter and Form—Potentiality; The Ideas and Mathematical Entities; and Divine Existence.

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THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF MORAL LESSONS. By *F. J. Gould*. London: Watts, 1905. Pp. 117. Price, 1s.

This is the first of a series and is on the general subjects of self-control and truthfulness. The qualities to be inculcated in the child's mind are illustrated by many incidents, anecdotes and fables to represent various phases and lead up to the desired lesson. These stories are admirably told and are often drawn from classical sources centering about prominent figures of myth, history and legend.

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The editor of *The Open Court*, Dr. Paul Carus, returning from a six months' absence abroad, arrived at New York Tuesday, July ninth, on the Kronprinz Wilhelm. After a short stay in the East, he is momentarily expected home as this issue goes to press.