

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY. *Eine Studie von Hans Freimark*. With four portraits and a facsimile of her handwriting. Leipsic: Grieben. Price, paper, 2.40 m., cloth, 3 m.

This little brochure purports to be a psychological study of Madame Blavatsky, the founder of the Theosophical Society. The author has chosen his subject as one of those leading spirits who "pretended to be able to point out one way toward happiness,—pretended because clever heads are still contending as to whether her methods were honorable or dishonorable." In the present work his discussion has little to do with this contention, but he has undertaken the task of throwing light upon the internal struggle between the masculine and feminine elements in this remarkable personality. He has gathered his data from a vast amount of material, including the publications of her most pronounced enemies as well as the writings of her followers and friends. In his foreword he raises the question as to whether her own frailties and the shortcomings of her work may not have been due to the fact that in the remarkable combination of masculine and feminine elements neither was able to gain sufficient supremacy to bring about a true unity which would make for success. As a psychological study of a unique character this little book will be interesting to a much broader circle than simply to theosophists.

THE TEMPLE OF LOVE. By *Ernest Newlandsmith*. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1906. Pp. 77. Price, \$1.20 net.

Mr. Newlandsmith is a member of the Royal Academy of Music, and Director of the British Musical Society. He has written a number of books on the general subjects of art, most notably *Art Ideals* and *The Temple of Art*. He is also editor of a quarterly entitled *The Larcsof Review* which was founded to proclaim "The unity of religious science and art, in the knowledge and love of God." The present little book is an appeal on behalf of the religion of love, not wholly mystical as it gives many suggestions for the right conduct of life in man's relations with his fellows, of all of which, however, both means and end are to be the love of God.

AN EASY OUTLINE OF EVOLUTION. By *Dennis Hird, M. A.* London: Watts, 1907. Pp. 128. Price, 1s.

The Rationalist Press Association is issuing this popular presentation of the subject of evolution for the benefit of those who have not yet read any connected account. Mr. Hird is the author of a profusely illustrated *Picture Book of Evolution*, and in the present work has often sacrificed technical matters to the primary objects of simplicity and clearness towards which end he defines carefully all technically scientific words that he is obliged to use.

SIX RADICAL THINKERS. By *John MacCunn, LL. D.* London: Arnold. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1907. Pp. 268. Price, \$1.70 net.

These are six critical essays written in an interesting anecdotal style with frequent quotations from the writings of the thinkers themselves. They

discuss "Bentham and his Philosophy of reform"; "The Utilitarian Optimism of John Stuart Mill"; "The Cobdenite Doctrines of Trade and Non-Intervention"; "The Anti-Democratic Radicalism of Thomas Carlyle"; "The Religious Radicalism of Mazzini"; "The Political Idealism of T. H. Green."

THE PLACE OF MAGIC IN THE INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF EUROPE. By *Lynn Thorndike, Ph.D.* New York: 1905. Pp. 110.

This essay forms the first number of Vol. XXIV of the Columbia University studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Dr. Thorndike has made a careful and thorough study of his fascinating subject. The chapter headings indicate the scope of the work, a large place in which is occupied by the consideration of the relation of magic to the Roman Empire. The following subjects are treated: Illustrations of Belief in Magic in Medieval and Early Modern Times; Magic, its Origin and Relations to Science; Pliny's Natural History; Some Antecedents of the Belief in Magic in the Roman Empire; Belief in Magic in the Empire; Critics of Magic; The Last Century of the Empire.

THE RELIGIOUS FUNCTION OF COMEDY. By *J. D. Logan, Ph.D.* Toronto: Briggs, 1907. Pp. 18. Price, 25 cents.

This essay is based on a lecture delivered before the Philosophical Society of the University of Toronto during the current year, and deals with the problem of evil treated from the point of view of Aristotle's Poetics and Metaphysics and of spiritual monism. It is a decidedly learned treatise and will be deemed even ponderous in many passages by those not accustomed to the sight of Greek words.

IM KAMPFE UM DEN ALTEN ORIENT. Wehr- und Streitschriften. Her. von *Alfred Jeremias und Hugo Winckler.* Leipsic: Hinrichs, 1907.

Heft 1. Die Panbabilonisten: Der alte Orient und die ägyptische Religion. Von *Alfred Jeremias.* Price, .80 m.

Heft 2. Die jüngsten Kämpfer wider den Panbabilonismus. Von *Hugo Winckler.* Price, 1 m.

Assyriologists are combative men, and the present series of publications is an evidence of the fact. We have witnessed the battles about Babel and Bible, the struggle between Delitzsch and Hilprecht, and the many controversies pro and con as to whether religion is helped by the new revelations of the spade in Mesopotamia. The *furor theologicus* has appeared with new virulence and has produced several schisms between Hebraists and Assyriologists, Biblical scholars and Panbabilonians. These latter have been very aggressive and have in their turn been vigorously attacked. They now gather their forces under the leadership of Alfred Jeremias and Hugo Winckler who open broadsides against all those who do not agree with their theories. Especially the second pamphlet by Hugo Winckler is of a personal nature and both contain plenty of interesting reading especially for those who are acquainted with the personalities which figure prominently in this warfare.