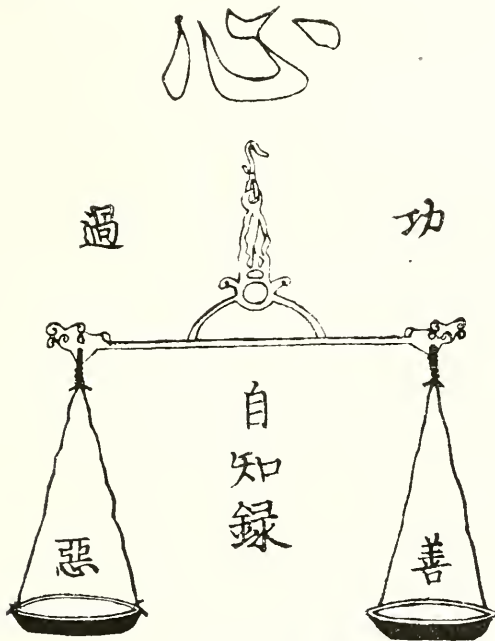


MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BALANCE OF THE HEART.

Different nations have different methods of teaching morality, and to show the Chinese way of inculcating the principles of right and wrong, and of good and bad conduct, the Open Court Publishing Company has published translations of the main ethical treatises of China, called "The Treatise on Response and Retribution" and "The Tract of the Quiet Way" (*T'ai-Shang*



THE BALANCE OF THE HEART.

Kan-Ying P'ien. Treatise of the Exalted One on Response and Retribution. Translated from the Chinese by Teitaro Suzuki and Dr. Paul Carus. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co., 1906. *Yin Chih Wen*. The Tract of the Quiet Way. Translated from the Chinese by Teitaro Suzuki and Dr. Paul Carus. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co., 1906.) On page 133 of the former work it is mentioned that the Chinese kept on hand a table of merits and demerits,

and the tract in which it is incorporated is called *Kung Kuo Ko*. An edition of it lies before us, and the whole principle of this little tract is incorporated in an illustration on its title page which is here reproduced. It is interesting to look at it and consider the spirit in which it has been conceived. The idea is to keep a record of one's own deeds whether good or evil, and to note them down according to a special valuation embodied in the book, and in this way exercise a kind of control over one's behavior. Care must be taken that good should outbalance evil, and this is illustrated in the balance of the heart. The character on top of the balance reads "heart." The inscription between the two balances reads "self-knowledge record." On the scale at the left hand is written the character "evil"; on the scale at the right hand, the character "good," and above we read over the former "demerit," over the latter, "merit." We may smile at the ingenuous device of the Chinese to scrutinize their own deeds, and yet we will not ridicule the method if we consider how much good it has done and how much good it is still doing to a large number of people.

P. C.

THE GERMAN MONISTIC ALLIANCE.

The second leaflet of the German Monistic Alliance contains an article by Dr. Heinrich Schmidt, which proposes the following three theses:

1. Christianity as a world-conception is in a complete decay and dissolution. As ethics it is practically insufficient to-day.

2. We are able to replace the old antiquated view by a new world-conception which is capable of development, which is the result of scientific and philosophical thought, and promises in its application to the individual as well as to society the most favorable results.

3. The new and the better view has not only the right but also the duty to win for itself, in the face of the old organized view, that position in the individual life of mankind which it owes to its cultural significance.

Dr. Schmidt is a young and aspiring naturalist, who is in close contact with Professor Haeckel, and with great ability enters into a propaganda of the monistic world-conception of his teacher, and we hope that their criticism of the old view, and their insistence on the respect for scientific truth, will be beneficial for the development of mankind; but we wish that both he and his great master would bear in mind the truth of evolution, when they would see that their own world-conception has developed out of the old one which they attack so vigorously. It would be wise if they would cut out from their progress all negations, if they would not denounce any religion, either Christianity, Judaism or whatever it be, and would simply limit themselves to a statement of the truth as they see it. Christianity is at present in a promising state of growth, and in our opinion the liberal party and the free-thinkers hurt the cause of progress more than they advance it by sweeping and indiscriminating attacks which condemn the old because it is not quite up to date in every respect.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

PSYCHOLOGIE DU LIBRE ARBITRE. By *Sully Prudhomme*. Paris: Felix Alcan, 1907. Pp. 175. Price, 2 fr. 50.

Sully Prudhomme, known through his former works on *The True Religion According to Pascal* and *The Problem of Final Causes*, here presents