

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

HALF-SILENT FELLOWSHIPS. By *Mary Morgan* (Gowan Lea). Edinburgh: Foulis, 1909. Pp. 104.

In general effect this is the daintiest possible little volume. Though apparently a collection of fugitive thoughts gathered together in haphazard fashion the whole represents "a plea for the hours of seeming idleness." It is a plea for the beauty in every-day times and seasons, for appreciation of homely service, for the humorous point of view, for the cherishing of simple ideals, for the communion with books and works of art, for an intimacy with nature, and for the closer companionship with one's better nature and higher thoughts. It may be noted that the effect of bucolic simplicity is somewhat marred on examination by the occasional insertion of entire paragraphs of untranslated French which could better have stood an English rendering, and there is no advantage in using the French term when its English equivalent is equally original and expressive. *Chatcaux en Espagne* lacks the classical directness of "castles in Spain" as used for instance by George William Curtis, while "an embarrassment of riches" is no weaker than *embarras de richesses* and has the advantage of a simplicity consonant with that of Gowan Lea's own poetical English style.

Miss Olga Kopetzky, the Munich artist who illustrated *The Philosopher's Martyrdom* and is now engaged in making a special study of Buddhist art, writes with reference to the article on "Foundations Laid in Human Sacrifice" in *The Open Court* of August, 1909, that she remembers similar superstitions to have obtained in her childhood in Bohemia, her native country. When her father, a citizen of Kuttenberg, was building a new house, live kittens were offered to him again and again to be used as sacrifices in the foundation stones of the walls, and when he refused to buy them, the people said that the walls would be sure to fall.

The publishing house of Dürr at Leipsic, continues its Philosophical Library, and we note especially Paul Lorentz's *Lessing's Philosophie*, and a new German translation of de la Mettrie's *L'homme-machine*, by Max Brahm, together with Eugen Kühnemann's Schiller's Philosophical Writings and Poems. The latter is a collection of passages, which contains Schiller's opinions as to the esthetic education of man, his ideas of the sublime, on the limits of the beautiful, on naïveté and sentimental poetry, his poem "The Ideal and Life," and other philosophical poems.

Ernest Flammarion, the publisher, (Paris: 26, rue Racine) has issued an interesting book by Alfred Binet on "The Modern Ideas Concerning the Child" (*Les idées modernes sur les enfants*, 1909, price 3 fr. 50), in which the author considers the progress made especially in Germany and America in education based upon experimental psychology and physiology. He considers appreciatively the significance of the movement and presents his own views in the present volume of 344 pages.