

fessor Deussen we learn that on the 14th of February, 1910, the admirers of the Vedanta sage, Shankara, will assemble to inaugurate in his birthplace, Kalati, a temple dedicated to the memory of this greatest expounder of Brahman philosophy. A letter which Professor Deussen received from V. Subrahmanya Ayer, Head Master of the Government High School of Tumkur, reads in part as follows:

"May I take this opportunity of informing you that it has now been arranged to commemorate the name and work of Shankara at Kalaki, where, as you know, he was born. This place has been forgotten altogether for over a thousand years. The requisite funds have been collected, and a temple is in the course of construction. It is proposed to place in it an image of Shankara; and His Holiness, Gagadguru Sri Satchidananda Sivabhinava Narasimha Bharati Swami, his apostolic successor at Singeri, is on his way to Kalati, to perform the installation and opening ceremony which will be celebrated on the 14th of February, 1910."

Prof. Paul Deussen has translated all the Upanishads, which are the classical books of the Vedanta, and he is unquestionably recognized by Eastern and Western Sanskrit scholars as the best authority on the subject. The Brahman correspondent concludes his letter to Professor Deussen thus:

"I cannot think of a greater or more devoted admirer or representative of Sri Shankara in our day than yourself. And you have done more than anybody else to spread his metaphysical fame in Europe and America. It is the desire of men like me here, that you should associate yourself in some way with this great movement, and you may do whatever you think appropriate."

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE IDEA OF A FREE CHURCH. By *Henry Sturt*. London: Walter Scott Pub. Co. Pp. 309. Price, 5s. net.

This book is an attempt to apply the principles of pragmatism to the solution of the most urgent religious problems of our day. The author examines the moral teaching of Christianity and in vigorous terms pronounces it to be obsolete and inadequate, proposing that a new church should be established. He sets forth at length the general principles of conduct and ideal of life which he holds to be most suitable to modern civilization. He indicates man's need of religion, and explains the principles of free religion and of the new theology which he believes ought to be substituted for the Christian faith.

Mr. Sturt retells briefly what he regards as the true history of Jesus in a rationalized résumé of the Biblical narrative. He holds this story to be utterly misrepresented in the accounts adopted by the churches. He shows how such a free religion as he advocates would influence our daily conduct, and he enforces his argument by contrast with the practical tendencies of Christianity, which he believes to be largely mischievous. Finally he offers suggestions for the work of organizing a Free Church.

Most points of current religious controversy are touched upon, though briefly, and the author has spared no pains to make his views and proposals as definite as possible. His style is clear and to the point, and he makes no effort to conciliate the orthodox since it is not to them that he is writing. Many of his statements may well be considered too sweeping by the most unprejudiced. "Of all the terrible intellectual disasters of Europe the Bible has

been by far the greatest, mitigated only partially, etc." His conclusions have been carefully considered but do not always coincide with the most assured results of Biblical criticism. For instance, it will no longer do to say that "Christianity is nothing but a spiritualized and humanized Judaism; and the triumph of Christianity was the death of the ideals of ancient culture."

The book offers the unchurched a working hypothesis. We would suggest, however, that the author is hardly consistent in claiming pragmatism as the foundation of his undertaking; because since Christianity has undoubtedly benefited many, must it not so far (pragmatically considered) be the truth?

The author's zeal will hardly be appreciated here where free churches exist in many different types, unless it be clearly understood that he writes in a country where there is an established church, and where non-conforming associations are at a disadvantage. There it is natural that the exponent of a Free Church should feel that he is a voice crying in the wilderness.

AUS NATUR UND GEISTESWELT. A series of nearly 300 volumes. Leipzig: Teubner. Price, 1 mark each, bound, 1.25 mark. Gift edition, 2.50 marks.

In this series of popular scientific works the publishing house of B. G. Teubner is doing a great service. The publisher's purpose is to lessen the tendency to caste divisions which comes with the increasing spread of culture by giving the scholar a larger audience and by offering an opportunity to the layman to familiarize himself with the achievements of the world of science. He hopes to avoid the proverbial danger of "a little learning" by furnishing familiarity with the methods of attaining results so that the reader may exercise an independent discrimination with regard to the statements presented to him. In order to make this series a true popularization of science, the best authorities are selected for its contributors. A few of its recent numbers are before us and their enumeration may remotely indicate the scope of the series: F. Muckle, *Die Geschichte der socialistischen Ideen im 19ten Jahrhundert* (2 vols.); F. Knauer, *Die Ameisen*; J. Unold, *Aufgaben und Ziele des Menschenlebens*; M. Verworn, *Die Mechanik des Geisteslebens*.

A treatise by Professor Jorge del Vecchio of the law faculty of the University of Sassari on the philosophical assumptions of the notion of justice, has been translated from the Italian into Spanish by the counsellor Mariano Castaño, (*Los supuestos filosóficos de la noción del Derecho*, Madrid: Reus, 1908), and now forms part of the Juridical Library of Spanish and Foreign authors (Biblioteca Juridica de Autores españoles y extranjeros).

A rational and psychological study of *Islam, Her Moral and Spiritual Value*, written by Major Arthur Glyn Leonard, has appeared from the press of Luzac & Company. It is furnished with a foreword by the Mohammedan authority, Syed Ameer Ali, who has written a number of works on Islam, including a contribution to the "Religions Ancient and Modern Series" (Open Court Publishing Company, price, 1s. each).

James Maclehose & Sons, of the University Press of Glasgow, have issued a reprint of a valuable fifteenth century theological tractate, *Reginald Pecock's Book of Faith* (price, 5s. net). The text is preceded by an introductory essay on the development of fifteenth century opinion by the editor, J. L. Morison.