

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE STORY OF ASENATH. Daughter of Potipherah, High Priest of On. By John Willy. Chicago: The Hotel Monthly, 1913. Pp. 82.

Readers of *The Open Court* will be interested to learn of this drama which has for its theme the same verse in Genesis as that which forms the nucleus of the early Greek Christian story, "Joseph and Asenath," published in Dr. Bernhard Pick's translation in the August *Open Court*. It is surprising to see the entirely opposite conceptions thus represented of the same characters who take part in the story. In Mr. Willy's drama much of the climax is effected through the treacherous blinding of Pharaoh's entire court by a herb known only to the high priest in the guise of a curse from Isis because of the unwarranted honors shown to the Hebrew Joseph. The last scene brings messages of hope and comfort to the blind, and the emphasis laid on this phase is accounted for in the author's Introduction: "The inspiration for this play was a desire to provide for near relatives who are blind, should accident befall me. . . . The characters who become blind in the play, and whose sight is restored, is a message of hope to the blind." Rights for presentation on the stage are reserved to the author, and dances of the priestesses of Isis are carefully described by the aid of diagrams. The volume is carefully made with the best of type and paper. p

ADDRESSES OF THADDEUS BURR WAKEMAN at and in reference to the first Monist Congress at Hamburg in September, 1911. Pages 60. Price 50 cents.

Mr. T. B. Wakeman was one of the best known representatives in America of freethought and rationalism. For many years he was closely connected with Prof. Ernst Haeckel in sympathy and personal acquaintance. When the German Monist League sent out invitations to convene a World's Monist Congress various freethought societies united and appointed as delegates Mr. Wakeman and Mr. James F. Morton, president of the Paine Historical Association. After Mr. Wakeman's return to America, he, as the senior American delegate, began to make ready a report of the congress, but he was not permitted to see the completion of his task for he died on April 23, 1913, at the advanced age of seventy-eight. The report thus delayed was not published until August and contains as frontispiece an excellent portrait of Mr. Wakeman and on the last page the expression of Professor Haeckel's sorrow at the news of his death. The pamphlet contains, besides the full text of Mr. Wakeman's own addresses at the Monist Congress, his report of the proceedings as written for and published in the *Truthseeker*, and also letters and addresses by Haeckel, Ostwald and Mr. Morton, including also Mr. Wakeman's report to the Rationalist Association of Indiana. p