

less costly than war, but there are times when there is simply no alternative except surrender and submission on the one hand or war on the other, and it is such a case which presented itself to Austria-Hungary and Germany at the beginning of the present war.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE OLD WORLD IN THE NEW. The Significance of Past and Present Immigration to the American People. By *Edward Alsworth Ross*, Ph. D., LL. D. Illustrated by many photographs and a frontispiece by Wladyslaw T. Benda. New York: Century Co. Pp. 327. Price \$2.40 net.

Professor Ross is at his best in this thorough and fearless investigation of the American problem of immigration. He first discusses historically and industrially the original elements that had gone to make up the American people when it first became a nation. Then a full chapter is devoted to each important racial element which has been added since then, the Irish, the German, the Scandinavian, the Italian, the Slav, the eastern Hebrews and the lesser immigrant groups. Professor Ross treats for each racial group the time and occasion of the successive emigrating waves, the distribution of the group in this country, and its contribution intellectually, temperamentally, morally and politically to our social, industrial and national life. Then follows a general discussion respectively of the economic and social effects of immigration and the relation of immigrant peoples to our political institutions. It is clear that Professor Ross believes that something must be done permanently to lessen the great influx from southern and eastern Europe (temporarily, of course, the European war has put a stop to it). In reply to the protest of employers of labor that immigrants are an industrial necessity because "Americans nowadays aren't any good for hard or dirty work," our author cites the strenuous life of the extreme west and northwest, and adds: "The secret is that with the insweep of the unintelligible bunk-house foreigner there grows up a driving and cursing of labor which no self-respecting American will endure." The reason that the character of our immigration has changed so that "the confessed illiteracy of the multitudes coming from southern and eastern Europe is 35.8 per ct. as against 2.7 per ct. for the dwindling streams from the north and west," Professor Ross states as follows: "The streaming in from the backward lands is sensibly converting this country from a low-pressure area into a high-pressure area. It is nearly a generation since the stress registered in the labor-market caused the British workingman to fight shy of America. It is twenty years since it reached the point at which the German workingman, already on the up-grade at home, ceased to be drawn to America. As the saturation of our labor-market by cheaper and ever cheaper human beings raises the pressure-gage, we fail to attract as of yore such peoples as the North Italians and the Magyars."

The great danger socially is in the way of lowering our standards. This is shown in the success of yellow journalism, in the slowness with which the woman's movement is gaining ground in the east, and in countless other ways. The hope that the second generation will be sufficiently Americanized to overcome the present defects is contradicted by the increasing influence of the parish schools.

"When, now, to the removal of the second generation from the public school there is added, as is often the case, the endeavor to keep them away

from the social center, the small park field-house, the public playground, the social settlement, the secular American press and welfare work in the factories, it is plain that those optimists who imagine that assimilation of the immigrant is proceeding unhindered are living in a fool's paradise."

In the last chapter, "American Blood and Immigrant Blood," Professor Ross is very earnest in his warning. He thinks the proportion of lower races will get so overwhelming that the result to the Americans as a nation will be loss in good looks, loss in stature and physique, loss in moral standards, loss in natural ability and intellectual vigor. We commend the book to the thoughtful consideration of those who sanguinely regard it to be the mission of America to furnish a haven of refuge to all the lowly and oppressed of earth.

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS. A Study of Evidence. By *E. O. Davies*, B. Sc.  
New York: George H. Doran Co. Pp. 240. Price \$1.25 net.

This work is the 1913 "Davies Lecture" under the Davies foundation of 1893 of Liverpool in the interest of the "Welsh Calvinistic Methodist" denomination. In the first part of the book the author assembles the evidence for the alleged facts and in the second part discusses the physical and moral impossibility and possibility of the miracles in the Gospels and their antecedent probability. The conclusion arrived at is: "That if the miracles attributed to Jesus in the Gospels are believed to be 'events which cannot be explained from the totality of intramundane factors,' then, on the assumption that the fundamental postulate of Christian Theism is valid, and that Jesus was a direct personal representative of God on earth, the evidence in support of those miracles is sufficient to justify the belief that they happened, speaking generally, as recorded."

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ORIGIN AND MEANING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. By *Theodore Wehle*. New York: Fenn. Pp. 199.

This brief outline of the history of the people of Israel is a strictly historical treatment, with "neither a religious nor irreligious bias," of one of the most important nations of ancient times. The results of the most painstaking and recondite labors of Old Testament critics are here summed up in a concise and popular form, and nothing of importance is omitted. The book will provide a most valuable compendium for the collateral reading of Bible classes, and is equally valuable for the historical departments of secular schools.

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The October, 1914, number of *The Open Court* (page 601) contains an error in a quotation from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, where the author of the passage quoted refers to the British breach of Portuguese neutrality as "an unfortunate precedent." Through some slip *The Open Court* reads "important precedent." There is not much difference in meaning, but the British author's regret at the occurrence is more strongly expressed by the word "unfortunate."