

PROFESSOR RUDWIN ON THE "BOS ET ASINUS."

To the Editor of The Open Court:

In the January number of *The Open Court* appears a brief paper by Professor Rudwin which is likely to cause astonishment to students of Biblical archeology. The writer traces the legend of the "Bos et Asinus" to the Itala version of the Bible, where the reading "in medio duorum animalium" is attributed to the Prophet Habakkuk. As he does not find it in the Hebrew or the Latin Vulgate, he concludes that it is due to "wilful corruption or ignorance."

As a matter of fact the reading is found in the Septuagint version which antedates the Itala by some five hundred years. It is undoubtedly erroneous; but there is no reason to blame either St. Jerome or the compilers of the Breviary. The Jewish rabbis who made the Septuagint version were by no means ignorant or wilful corrupters of the Hebrew text. They probably remembered the prophecy of Isaiah (i. 3) and were quite sincere in bringing the unpointed text into harmony with the Messianic allusion: "The ox and the ass know the crib of their master, but Israel etc." The "Bos et Asinus" is certainly five centuries older than Dr. Rudwin supposes.

The medieval mystery playwright knew both the Hebrew rendering from their reading of the Vulgate and also the Septuagint rendering from the homilies of the Greek fathers, which were then, as now, read in the churches east and west.

H. J. HEUSER.

OVERBROOK SEMINARY.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD AS A FIELD FOR SCIENTIFIC METHOD IN PHILOSOPHY. By *Bertrand Russell*. Chicago and London: The Open Court Publishing Company. Pp. 242. Cloth, \$2.00.

These eight "Lowell Lectures," delivered at Boston, Mass., in March and April, 1914, attempt to show by means of examples, the nature, capacity and limitations of the logico-analytical method in philosophy, which in the author's opinion yields whatever scientific knowledge it is possible to obtain in philosophy. "The central problem," says the author, "by which I have sought to illustrate method, is the problem of the relation between the crude data of sense and the space, time and matter of mathematical physics." Many of the difficulties between the views advocated here and those of *The Problems of Philosophy* are due to Dr. A. N. Whitehead; and much of these lectures is a rough and preliminary statement of what Dr. Whitehead will say in the fourth volume of *Principia Mathematica*. The author's chief debts are to G. Frege, on logic, and G. Cantor, on the mathematical infinite.

ELEMENTI DI ETICA. Di *Giovanni Vidari*. Milan: Hoepli, 1911. Pp. 379. Price 3l.

This is the third edition, revised and enlarged, of Professor Vidari's compendium on ethics. Part I treats of the sociological bases of ethics from the historical and psychological point of view, while Part II discusses ethical ideals and their application to the life of the individual and of society. In his list of bibliographical references he gives credit to Wundt, Spencer, Durkheim,

Levy-Bruhl, Simmel, Eucken, Lecky, Lubbock, Jodl, Royce and a number of other German, French and English thinkers besides the best standard works of Italy.

George Ashton Black, of New York City, publishes a pamphlet of twenty-four pages in which a mathematical definition of science is made to lead to a mathematical well-ordered curriculum of the sciences. The formulation of the title reads

Problem | Science = Analysis ||

Formula | Indeterminate | Science = Analysis | Determinate.

The fundamental definition is that science (being cognition necessary and sufficient to resolve all cases of a general problem)=analysis. Mr. Black regards the sign of equivalence (=), meaning a fact or thing done, as the prototype not merely of mathematical science but of any science whatever, and believes that the simplest practical application of the scientific method is the actual production of this equivalence by degrees. (See a remark of his in *The Monist*, XXIII, p. 612). Mr. Black inserts a series of tables by which the whole of possible science as universal analysis is differentiated.

The international magazine *Scientia* (*Rivista di Scienza*) has completed its sixteenth volume, and the January number of the current year contains a new and unexpected feature. In the present terrible European war, *Scientia*, true to its scientific and international character, has decided to emerge from its "ivory tower of abstract synthesis" and to invite "the most eminent philosophers, historians, sociologists, economists and jurists" to treat thoroughly the question of the present war and its causes. These authorities have been chosen from both of the opposing camps and also from neutral countries, and have either already sent their studies to *Scientia* or will soon do so. The object of this research is to be an objective and calm inquiry into the causes and sociological factors of the war; and not only will it be of great scientific interest but also of a supreme and vital practical importance, for from this analysis we shall be able to conclude if and in what way the present war can, for the greater good of humanity and civilization, preserve us forever from other wars. Thus, with the next volume *Scientia* will—for the present at least—appear every month and as usual there will be a supplement containing French translations of the English, German, and Italian articles.

We are in receipt of a small pamphlet, entitled "The Catechism of Balaam, Jr., by an Irish-American," which consists in a contemplation of the war issues in questions and answers between the old false prophet and the ass in defense of Old England in the present war as well as in her treatment of other nations in India, Africa and especially Ireland. England is mainly excused, but the sarcastic tone is so obvious that we may regard the catechism as the expression of one of the severest critics of the British cause.

The author is in dead earnest, for the publication of his catechism means a pecuniary sacrifice to him, as is indicated by the prefatory remark on the cover which reads thus: "Sixty thousand copies have been printed, mailed and distributed at my own personal expense for the good of the cause, but I now find the demand for this pamphlet so great that I am obliged to ask the cost price of same from those who desire large quantities and wish to help me in

this work, namely: one cent per copy. Small quantities will be gladly sent gratis, as heretofore upon application to *Hugh H. Masterson, 170 Chambers Street, New York.*"

The name of the author is withheld until after the war.

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We have received the first number of *School and Society*, a weekly educational journal which begins publication with the new year under the editorship of Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, professor of psychology in Columbia University and the Teachers College, editor of *Science*, *The Popular Science Monthly* and *The American Naturalist*. It is announced that the journal will follow the general lines that have made *Science* of service in the sciences, cooperating with publications in special fields, aiming to become the professional journal for those engaged in the work of our lower and higher schools, and to be of interest to the wider public for whom education is of vital concern. It will emphasize the relations of education to the social order, scientific research in education and its applications, freedom of discussion, and reports and news of events of educational interest. The first number opens with an article by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, entitled "Educational Evolution" in which he has long been the leader in this country. Dr. G. Stanley Hall discusses the teaching of the war in our schools, and President W. T. Foster of Reed College commends the state-wide campus of the modern university. There are departments devoted to discussion and correspondence, quotations, books and literature, educational research and statistics, societies and meetings, educational events, and educational notes and news.

J. G. Cotta (Stuttgart and Berlin) has published a neat little volume of ninety-nine pages under the title, *Die deutsche Erhebung von 1914*, being a series of essays and lectures by Friedrich Meinecke, professor of modern history at the University of Berlin, in which the spirit of the German conception of the current war is pretty well represented by a professional historian. Most of the essays were published during the early months of the war; one of them, however, was written in the month preceding the outbreak of hostilities, and one of the lectures was delivered on the memorable fourth of August. They treat of the German rise against Napoleon in 1813 and its continued movement in 1848, 1870, and down to the present time, showing that the whole history is one uninterrupted development. He disusses what Germany is fighting for in the present war and (page 64) he denounces the misrepresentations which German thought has to encounter, mainly in the English papers.

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In *The China Press* of November 19, 1914, Dr. Gilbert Reid enumerates the treaties made between Japan and China or by Japan with reference to China and Korea with the approval of Russia and Great Britain and shows how they have been ignored by Japan. Korea has been annexed by Japan in absolute disregard of Japan's assertion of contrary intention and Great Britain has not entered into war with Japan for the violation of these treaties. They have been completely overlooked, and China is helpless, lacking, as it does, a system of militarism. Dr. Reid is in close sympathy with China and deplores her present helpless condition at the mercy of the European powers that have not adhered to the letter or spirit of their agreement.