

Review of Newest Books

By H. S. ROSS

THE CREDENTIALS OR CHRISTIANITY. By Martin J. Scott, S.J., Author of "God and Myself," "Hand of God," and "Convent Life." Publishers, P. F. Kenedy and Sons, New York.

Today the world is sick and despondent, embroiled in strife and disorder from which there is seemingly no getting away. Two thousand years ago, the Great Physician prescribed the remedy for all mankind and Christianity fashioned the Nations of Modern Europe, a task greater than confronts her now. She rode that storm as she will ride this; not fearing for Christianity but for the world without Christianity. Religion is a necessary adjunct to the highest standards of civilization and if our world is to remain Christian, it cannot be ignored.

That is the message so pointedly conveyed in **THE CREDENTIALS OF CHRISTIANITY**. It is a clear, matter-of-fact account of authenticated events and historic facts interwoven into an insurmountable wall of evidence for the soundness and strength of the Christian claim.

In the past Christianity faced worse conditions than confront us to-day. When Hun and Vandal and Goth swept down through Europe and made a desert of it, Christianity took these barbarians and fashioned them into the civilized peoples of modern Europe. A new devastation now threatens the world. One thing only will save us from it, a return to Christianity; not merely a nominal return, but the adoption in private and public life of the principles and spirit of Christianity.

AMERICAN BUSINESS LAW. By Hon. A. B. Frey, A.B., LL. B. Publishers, The Macmillan Company of Canada, 70 Bond Street Toronto. Price, \$5.00 net.

Judge Frey has undertaken to write a book for which there should be a good demand not only in the United States but in Canada. He has given a complete treatment, clearly and concisely stated of the entire field of business law, so arranged that it will not only be a useful guide to the practical business man but also a carefully prepared and systematically outlined and indexed book for students in commercial colleges in the United States and Canada. Emphasis is laid upon those subjects from which arise the most frequent problems of every day business, such as contracts, bankruptcy, agencies, insurances, etc.

The object of the book is to set forth clearly and concisely those fundamental principles upon which is built Business Law. In order to make clear such principles and at the same time to impress upon the reader's mind in a practical as well as in a theoretic manner concrete illustrations have been used, some of which are synopses of, and excerpts from, the leading cases decided in Great Britain and the United States. A number of legal forms have also been given in connection with the various subjects.

HUMAN EFFICIENCY AND LEVELS OF INTELLIGENCE. By Henry Herbert Goddard. Publishers, Princeton University Press, Princeton. Price, \$1.60 net.

The author is Director of The Bureau of Juvenile Research of Ohio and was a pioneer in the field of using psychological tests with practical results. He offers in this book solutions for the old problem of fitting each person into his proper place in the world. This is one of the lectures of the Louis Clark Vanuxem Foundation for 1919. This Foundation was established in 1912, the income of which is to be used for a series of public lectures delivered in Princeton annually, at least one half of which shall be on subjects of current scientific interest. The lectures are to be pub-

lished and distributed among schools and libraries generally.

The scope of the lecture may be gathered from the following from the author's introduction.

"The topic of mental levels or 'Labels of intelligence' has been chosen for these lectures because while the subject is not altogether new, it seems that there are phases of it that have not been dwelt upon which enable us to look at some of the present day problems from a new angle, and suggest solutions different from any usually discussed.

Stated in its boldest form our thesis is that the chief determiner of human conduct is a unitary mental process which we call intelligence; that this process is conditioned by a nervous mechanism that is inborn; that the degree of efficiency to be attained by that nervous mechanism and the consequent grade of intelligence or mental level for each individual is determined by the kind of chromosomes that come together with the union of the germ cells; that it is but little affected by any later influence except such serious accidents that may destroy part of the mechanism.

As a consequence any attempt at social adjustment which fails to take into account the determining character of the intelligence and its unalterable grade in each individual is illogical and inefficient."

ETHICS AND NATURAL LAW. A Reconstructive Review of Moral Philosophy Applied to the Rational Art of Living. By George Lansing Raymond, L. H. D., Professor of Aesthetics, George Washington University. Publishers, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Price, \$2.00.

The spirit of this interesting book may perhaps be best given by quoting from a few paragraphs of the preface.

"Of course, one who acknowledges the principles just stated and accepts truth as the sole or main weapons through which to attain political results, must, with it, often exercise patience, content to wait until his adversaries have had time to think and reconstruct their conceptions. But this is something that the most elementary forms of courtesy and respect for others and for their opinions ought of themselves incline him to do. Much more should he do this in a country whose whole form of government is based upon faith in human nature and in the workings of the human mind. An American ought to be in sufficient sympathy with this faith to believe that all that is necessary in order to induce the majority of people to think and to act in accordance with right is a persistent presentation of them of the facts of a case and of interferences legitimately derived from them. When success has crowned effort thus pursued, its effects are well-nigh certain to prove comprehensive and permanent. Nothing is so difficult to reverse as public sentiment that is a result of ample instruction and deliberate reflection.

Disbelief in the effectiveness of these two latter agencies is largely owing in our country, as in Germany, to the attributing of such moral influence as can thwart and end vice and crime to the enactments of the state. It is for this reason that many with the highest intentions have welcomed any habits, no matter how contrary to the spirit or even to the letter of our form of government, through which, as they have supposed, their wishes as expressed in their votes can be immediately transmitted into legal statutes. The error of their conception consists not in its ascribing a certain degree of influence to the action of the state, but in absorbing to it predominant and exclusive influence. Impersonal public enactments have nothing in themselves alone that can

prove corrective of personal character. It is only the influence and character of other persons, mainly in the family, and school, the business and the church, but sometimes also in the state, that is capable as a rule, of inspiring to higher and nobler effort. Few more debasing conditions could be found than in more than one state in our country in which a law is supposed to have been framed so as entirely to abolish them."

Some of the chapters are:—

Ancient and Medieval Ethical Theories.

Modern Ethical Theories.

Morality attributed to Thinking, Feeling or Both.

Analogies Between Harmony in Aesthetics and in Ethics.

Keeping the Mind's Desires Uppermost in the General Relations of Society.

Keeping the Mind's Desires Uppermost in Forms of Government, Autocracy and Democracy.

Keeping the Mind's Desires Uppermost in the Framing and Administering of Government Laws.

Keeping the Mind's Desires Uppermost in Stimulation by the Government of Individual Initiative Leadership.

FAIRY TALES FROM FRANCE. Retold by William Trowbridge Larned of New York City. Beautifully illustrated in full color by John Rae. Published and Copyrighted by P. F. Volland Company, New York, Chicago, Toronto.

This charming book is dedicated "To All Good Children who Believe in Fairies With Greetings from the Homeland of Cinderella."

In a brilliant foreword the author points out that many of the best-loved fairy stories were first told in France about two hundred years ago. "The world is a large place, and the fairies had the choice of all lands in which to live. Some chose England and Ireland, others went to Italy and elsewhere; but the ones who became most famous found a home in France. Why they favored France we cannot really and truly say. It could scarcely have been the climate—a fairy does not care one bit how hot or how cold it is; whether it blows or whether it snows. That is why they are such good fun—no fairy was ever known to talk to one about the weather.

Our own private opinion is that the cleverest fairies went to France because they felt at home there. The French children, for one thing, believed in them; and to the life of a fairy, that is the most necessary thing of all. Or perhaps some of the brightest fairies went to France because such bright people were there to write about them. Judge for yourself when you read the stories in these books. Who is better known or better loved than "Cinderella"? Was there ever anything more wonderful than "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood"? The writer who told their stories was a Frenchman—Charles Perrault.

Then there was Mme. d'Aulnoy. She wrote a novel nobody remembers, and some sort of history best forgot; and then people forgave her because she wrote a great thick book of fairy stories. When you read "The King's Messenger," you will want to read, right away, "The King of the Peacocks" too.

Finally, there was Mme. Leprince de Beaumont, who lived to be seventy years old and wrote seventy books. Many of these were interesting, but the best of them was the book of the fairies, from which we have taken "Prince Darling" and "The Three Wishes."

But Perrault was the prince of them all. He lived in the time of the poet, La Fontaine, who composed such charming fables, and who hastened to say after reading a Perrault story: "What pleasure would be mine if I had written that!"

The Volland ideal is that books for children must not cause fright, suggest fear, glorify mischief, extenuate malice or condone cruelty and that is why their books are good for children and grown ups who still like fairy stories.