

"Christ and Science." Jesus Christ regarded as the Centre of Science. By Francis Henry Smith, Professor in the University of Virginia. New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company.

The Cole lectureship is one endowed by Colonel Cole for the defence and advocacy of the Christian religion in Nashville University. Our own Dr. Sutherland is the only "foreigner" we think who has ever given one of these lectures. The volume under review is one of unusual merit. It rather discounts the Bridgewater Treatise method of apologetics. "To find the Creator from his works is like trying to find the centre of a circle from its circumference, for considering the smallness of our knowledge, these works are a very brief part of the circumference." Professor Smith starts from the centre inquiring what sort of a universe we might expect from a divine and beneficent Creator, and thus finds innumerable confirmations in nature of that expectation. He claims that the three great scientific generalizations of the 19th century are the Conservation of Matter, the Conservation of Energy and the Continuity of Life, and makes copious use of the new chemistry, disputing the theory that radio-active elements interfere with these generalizations. A splendid optimism marks this treatise. "The Christian of to-day," he says, "feels that he belongs to a living, growing, triumphant cause, the solemn thinkers of the world are more and more turning to Christ, skepticism is less arrogant than it was fifty years ago. The day is already dawning when fair science will cast her crown at his feet and hail him 'Son of Mary! Son of God!'—of whom and through whom and to whom are all things."

"The Orbit of Life." Studies in Human Experience. By William T. Herridge, New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. 147. Price, \$1.00 net.

This is another addition of distinct value to Canadian authorship. It discusses important topics as Appreciation, Love's Thoroughfare, Self-Mastery, The Triumph of Joy, The Two Bodies, An Easter Study. It is written on a high plane of thought with a chastened eloquence, abounds in literary allusions, and is instinct with a genial optimism. It protests with George Eliot against the

combination of worldliness and "other worldliness" which soon destroys the best type of both. It inculcates the democracy expressed by Parker in the phrase, "Not I am as good as you are, but you are as good as I am." In the paper on The Triumph of Joy he says, "Some people seem to have a genius for being miserable. They take a microscopic view of their troubles which increases them a hundred-fold. They feel a sort of joy in joylessness. The professional pessimist is one of the products of the times." He cites the Highlander who saw men and women on Sunday walking the streets of Edinburgh and smiling as they went and exclaimed, "What an awfu' sicht!" making the mistake of supposing that it is not possible to keep both conscience and vivacity. The ladies will thank Dr. Herridge for the defence of Xanthippe, the much-maligned spouse of Socrates.

"John and Mary Fletcher." Typical Methodist Saints. By the Rev. T. Alexander Seed. London: Chas H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 124.

No more attractive names could be added to the series of Christian biography than those of the saintly Fletcher and his wife. Passing the strangeness of romance and fiction are the plain facts of this singularly well-mated couple. Young Fletcher, born to wealth in Switzerland, on completing his studies was to have sailed for Brazil, when a maid waiting on him at table let a kettle fall and so scalded his legs that he was unable to set out on his distant journey. The ship on which he would have sailed was never heard of again, but he was reserved for the higher destiny of being one of the most faithful and successful Methodist ministers of the times of the Wesleys. Mary Bosanquet had a scarce less romantic experience before she became the wife of John Fletcher. The incense of their lives is fragrant throughout the world to-day.

"A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Psalms." By Charles Augustus Briggs, D.D., D. Litt., and Emilie Grace Briggs, B.D. Vol I. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo. Pp. cx-422. Price, \$2.50.

This volume is the latest issue of the International Critical Commentary. It