

WHY WE SUFFER,

AND OTHER ESSAYS, BY HENRY HAYMAN, D.D.

IT is characteristic of our soft and effeminate age that the existence of pain occupies a disproportionate amount of attention. The literary and educated classes are so largely protected against physical discomfort, that pain has become the enigma of the universe. Poets and philosophers, however widely opposed in other points, have united in raising a howl of indignation at the scene of suffering which this world presents. Mill in his famous *Three Essays*, Tennyson in the well-known lines of *In Memoriam*, gave utterance to the general thought of a softly cushioned public, who were delighted to find their feelings expressed in vigorous prose and terse melodious rhyme.

The wail of the old culture has been reinforced by those who have seized upon the Darwinian theory as a proof that this earth is little more than a scene of blood and wounds. The natural inference has been drawn that there is no God : for our age cannot regard as God such a being as Mill suggested, deficient either in power or benevolence. Wallace, the great champion of Darwinism, has shown that the struggle for life does not prevent the predominance of happiness over pain in the animal creation. Hence it becomes the duty of the Church to find a solution of the difficulties raised. Dr. Hayman has dealt with the problem in a very able manner in the essay which gives its name to the volume. He takes the facts of life as they are, and shows that they exhibit marks of wisdom and benevolence. Man being what he is, and the distribution of pain being what it is, the maximum of good is obtained with a minimum of suffering. Thus "economy of pain" is used in a double sense : it expresses the object and method of its infliction, and also the thrift displayed in securing the end desired.

The essay is divided into three parts. The first part treats of man's capacity for pain chiefly in the physical and intel-