

this he ought to have been successful. He might have presented greater variety in his illustrations, but it would probably have been at the expense of the direct truth he desired to inculcate.

Mr. Bates regards literature, that is, good literature worthy of the name, as the sum of the race's best experience in expression, so that, as the spiritual experience of religious worthies in the past may help Christians towards a high ideal of religious life, so this other soul experience of beauty and duty and conflict, and whatever else the emotions have gone through, may tend in the student to a higher type of living. To company with certain persons is an education in itself, and it is hardly less to company with certain books which are often the best side of those who wrote them. Of prurient literature Mr. Bates has an abhorrence, for manufactured sensationalism a contempt, for style without soul a feeble pity. He says : " It is safe to say that for the faithful reader of the Sunday newspaper there is no intellectual salvation. Like the Prodigal Son, he is fain to fill his belly with the husks which the swine do eat, and he has not the grace even to long for the more dignified diet of fatted calf." It is vain, within the compass of a mere talk, to do more than commend the admirable spirit, matter and language of Mr. Bates' lectures, which, without any attempt at wit or fine style, sparkle with crystals of truth on almost every page. The deep seriousness of the man, which shews that he is no dilettante, is everywhere apparent, and is illustrated by the following words : " Irreverence is the deformity of a diseased mind. The man who cannot revere what is noble is innately degraded. When writers of genius have given us their best thoughts, their deepest imaginings, their noblest emotions, it is for us to receive them with bared heads." I cordially recommend all who would seek an introduction to the spirit in which literature should be studied, and who ought not to seek it ? to procure Mr. Bates' Talks and make them a subject of careful perusal.

The other book furnished by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin &