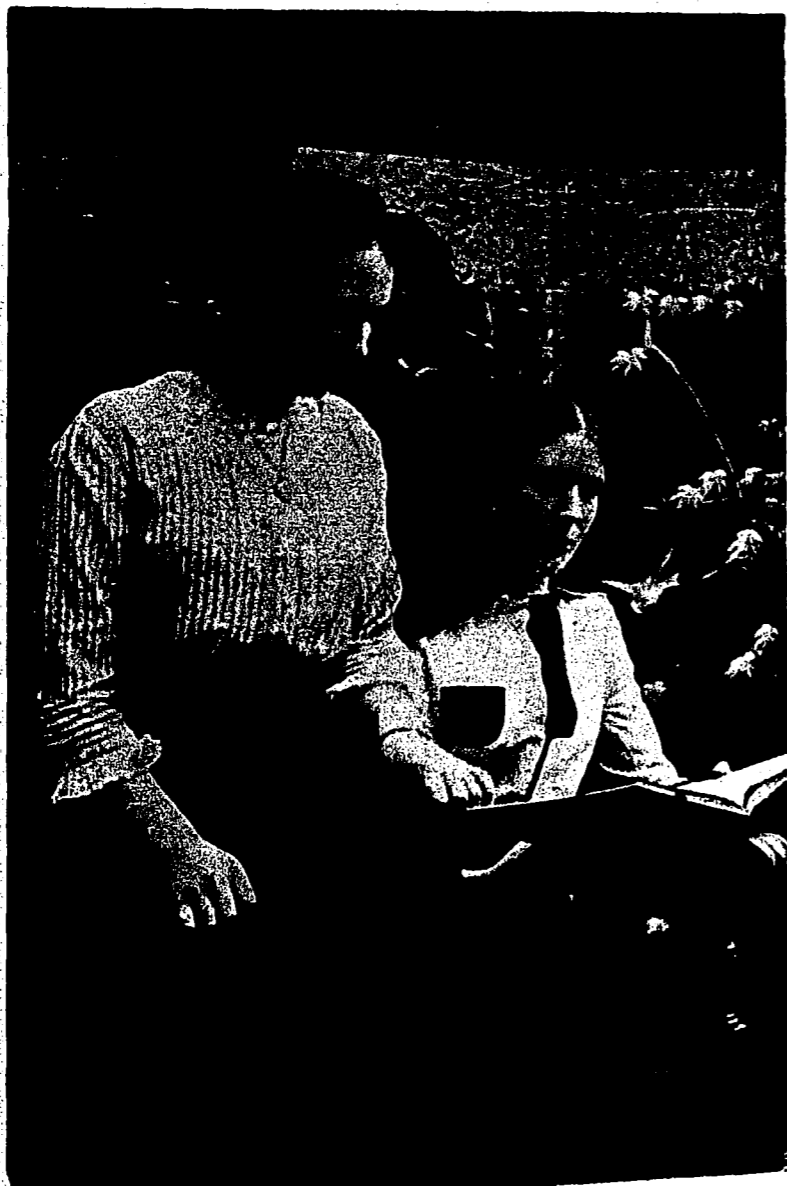


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BOOK REVIEWS. INTIMATIONS.

BY JOHN D. BARRY.

readable book is Mr. Barry's "Intimations"—the kind of book that one reads with pleasure in possessing because its author is so human and companionable, its style is so convincing, its quiet humor is so poetic and its comments upon life are so keen. To call it a collection of essays would be to give it too dry a name, while written in a terse yet graceful style its philosophy is in the form of stories and anecdotes rather than ser-

mons. In his own contact with humanity and in his everyday experiences, this kindly author makes his observations. In them he shows something of the new thought sentimentality and fine spiritual optimism. At the same time he looks the big facts of life in their perspective and points out frankly some of the defects of our modern ways of thought and action and suggests possible remedies.

His pages are full of that spirit of fellowship which is common to all men, with both the "common people" and the "great," which always brings a man to the heart of his readers. Perhaps one of the things in the book is the comment upon Lincoln, the appreciation of his big, simple sincerity and the quaint suggestions which must feel gratified in contributing their mite to an overworked nation. "It is a tragedy," Mr. Barry declares, "that we are shut up from becoming a figurehead." The intimation entitled "The Reading of the Bible," the author remarks that many of us are "shut up in the little prison of our own minds and it is only the cultivation of the spirit that can set us free. And he makes the criticism Charles A. Dana once made to his friend: "The trouble with you is that you don't read novels."

Probably the most original of the intimations is the one on "Truth," in which Mr. Barry whimsically deplores those well-meaning but tiresome enthusiasts who in their efforts to proclaim their own special "truths" make such unkind havoc among the quieter-souled neighbors. The essay "The Shadow" is both sane and illuminating, and "The Shadow" is as significant in its import as any that has lately been writ-

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