

Poems by Walt. A. Ratcliffe.

MORNING SONGS IN THE NIGHT. Poems. By Walt. A. Ratcliffe. With Preface by William Douw Lighthall, M.A., F.R.S.L., Montreal. Cloth, \$1. Toronto: William Briggs, 29-33 Richmond-street West; or from the author, Listowel.

Many of our readers, who have enjoyed Mr. Ratcliffe's contributions to our pages, will be glad to have this handsome collection of his poems, many of which are now printed for the first time. Mr. Lighthall says in his preface:

"In style, the quiet force of many of Mr. Ratcliffe's lines, their frequent happiness of phrase or metaphor, strike one. Not that they often come very near the word-wealth of the art-poets, the exquisite music of the lyricists, the fastidious culture of the classicists, or the profundity of the metaphysical specialist; but in clear intelligence and plain good taste they take excellent rank, and few current volumes will be found to contain so many poems which leave the reader earnestly thinking. The author has evidently a sure hold on higher comfort, but it ought to be one source of happiness to him that he can so vigorously command and teach as to be probably fulfilling a more useful place than the average individual of unimpaired faculties, and that this little work will go on singing and teaching long after him. Perhaps he has been sentinelled at one of the outposts of misfortune to show how bravely misfortune can be borne."

We sincerely hope that Mr. Ratcliffe's volume of poems, which on its merits will take a high rank among the best of our Canadian poetry, will meet with a generous reception from our friends. Mr. Ratcliffe has for years been largely cut off from the ordinary pleasures of life, and from communication with his friends, by almost total blindness and deafness; and it is wonderful that he has been capable of singing so cheerfully and hopefully; possibly too hopefully, for, as Mr. Lighthall well says: "His longings find a remedy for much in a socialistic order of society—perhaps too much; for how can any legislation from without produce an ideal society without a regeneration from within?" The volume can be obtained through the ordinary news-dealers, or direct from the author at Listowel, Ont.

THE MONIST for April, 1897 (Quarterly, 50c.; \$2 per ann.; Open Court Co.), fully maintains its high standard. Among its more important articles are—"Hegel To-day," by Prof. Eucken, Jena; "Genesis of Social 'Interests,'" by Prof. J. Mark Baldwin; "The Conflict of Races, Classes, and Societies," by Prof. G. Fiamingo; and a finely illustrated and valuable article by Dr. Carus, "The Mythology of Buddhism."

THE OPEN COURT, in its new monthly dress (\$1 per ann.), is taking its place among the best of the literary and philosophical magazines. The April number contained a lengthy article on the "Administration of the City of Chicago," by Hon. Lyman Gage; and a discussion, "Is the Church Responsible for the Inquisition?" by Dr. Carus, elaborately illustrated from old engravings of events of the Inquisition and witch-trials. The chief articles in the May number are "The Prophet of Pessimism," by Dr. Carus, with a fine photograph from Elisabeth Ney's famous bust of Schopenhauer; and "An Historical Sketch of the Jews," by Rev. Bernhard Pick, with many illustrations of Jewish rites and ceremonies. This is the first of a series which is to describe the wanderings of the Jews and their fortunes and misfortunes since the Captivity.