

Over no field have greater changes passed, in none have greater displacements taken place, than in that of religious thought. All literature attests it, and the modern novel would be as incomplete without its religious padding as its predecessors without their love-making. Mr. G. H. Hepworth's new work is a striking example of this. It is a story written as a half-serious plea in favor of the doctrine of metempsychosis.

The belief in the immortality of the soul is one of the deepest-seated elements of religious belief, and even people, who, like the Positivists, practically deny it, are unable to do so without retaining the term to signify a posthumous immortality of renown, which they wish to substitute for the older belief in a continuity of conscious being. But however persistent the immortality of the soul may be as an idea, it is an idea that has taken upon it various shapes at different times and among different races. One of the commonest forms of belief among Oriental nations is the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, and it has found favor with poets, if not as an article of belief, at least as an idea suited to the requirements of the poetic imagination. That the doctrine of metempsychosis has not found serious advocates in modern times is hardly matter of wonder, considering the numerous difficulties that attend the belief. Wordsworth's ode is a proof of the poetical aptitude of the idea, but Mr. Hepworth is perhaps the first who has seen its capabilities as enhancing the old story of love. Gerard Roussel tells the tale of his marriage with Bertha Hohenstauffen. They were drawn together by a kind of Elective Affinity, having been married eighty years before as Leopold and Elise. The story is broken here and there by dialogues after the Platonic fashion with Will Rivers, the third interlocutor. The scene is appropriately laid in a lonely cottage on a wild, stormy night.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The High School Library.—We are glad to hear that the boys of the High School, Montreal, are taking active measures to get together a Library of reference. It seems to us a necessary appendage to a school, and it is wonderful that steps in this direction have not been taken before.

Translations and Appointments.—Miss Georgiana Hunter, S.A.A., of the Sherbrooke Street School, has been appointed to succeed Miss Henderson, late teacher of History and English Literature