

into an understanding of the influence of Paul and John on the thought of after ages. Every student of divine things who wants material to help him in doing his own thinking, should not only read this book, but study and slowly absorb the facts here brought out in the most scientific, up-to-date scholarship coupled with a devout and spiritually-minded atmosphere. For the man who wants only easy "pre-digested" food to season and dish up for a quick supply of sermons, this is not the thing. Not that it is so difficult: it is profound, but luminous as day. But it must be handled as a whole and not for its quotable nuggets. It is furnished with a good bibliography on the subject, and also a brief but very useful index. C. S. E.

"Poverty." By Robert Hunter. New York: The Macmillan Company. Toronto: G. N. Morang & Company. Pp. xi-382. Price, \$1.50.

"The poor ye have always with you," said the Master, and we have them with us to-day. But "Blessed is the man that considereth the poor." That is the purpose of this book, to diagnose the disease and seek its cure. The writer has been associated for a dozen years with social and economic reform. He writes out of a large experience. It is certainly a surprise to be told that no less than ten millions of persons in the United States are underfed, underclothed, poorly housed. In a series of incisive chapters he treats of the social wreckage in the abyss of the cities of the Union. He shows that the evils of poverty are reproductive, that degeneracy tends to deepen and widen. The vagrant and the tramp are in large degree the cause as well as the product of poverty. They prefer vagrancy to toil, they make mendicancy a profession; they are above working with the "dagoes" and "sheenies" and other foreign laborers.

Our author recognizes intemperance as one of the most prolific causes of poverty. Drunkenness and sickness are responsible for thirty-five to fifty per cent. of this evil. His remedy is treating inebriety as a disease, healing it in hospitals, or punishing it in prisons. But why not nip it in the bud by banishing the bar by which it is caused?

Our author makes the astounding statement, founded on insurance statistics, that 1,664,000 persons are annually killed, or more or less seriously injured, in the United States by accident; 150,000 more

die every year of tuberculosis. Both of these evils might surely be largely prevented.

But admitting all that Mr. Hunter states, still we know little in either the United States or Canada of the depths of poverty that exist in the crowded centres of the Old World and among the parasite populations of the Far East. Our social development has created a standard of living to fall below which is counted poverty, although it would be deemed by many millions a supreme luxury. In Canada, especially, it may truly be said that we have no poverty for which the preventable evils of drink and vice are not responsible. Every man able and willing to work may earn a living, and often gain wealth.

"Tales Told in Palestine." Collected by J. E. Hanauer. Edited with Illustrations by H. G. Mitchell. Cincinnati: Jennings & Graham. Toronto. William Briggs. Pp. 221. Price, \$1.25 net.

The folk-tales of primitive peoples throw remarkable light on their history and religion. To the present writer, while riding on his camel in the deepening twilight from Karnak to Luxor, Mohamet, his camel driver, told a long and rambling tale about a king, and a priest, and a cow and a calf; and we told him the story of the judgment of Solomon. He had never heard it, and thought it a very good one, indeed. The Orient abounds in tales of the marvellous djins and afrites, many of which are embodied in the Koran of Mohammed. In Egypt, if you ask who built the Pyramids or the ruined palaces or temples, the natives will often answer, Joseph—Yusef, they call him—and very many of them bear his name.

This book is a remarkable collection of such stories. It is only one who has lived with intimacy among these people who can so enter into their inner life and get a glimpse of things behind the scenes who could collect such tales as these. Sir Edwin Arnold has retold a century of them in charming verse. These are gathered from the natives while smoking around the camp-fire or wandering over the desert ways in lonely pilgrimage. Some of them throw much light on the narratives of Scripture, as the legends of saints and heroes, of Abraham, of Job, of Moses, of David; others describe modern superstitions; some are specimens of Oriental wit and