

experience that consistency is simply a steel hoop about a small mind; it keeps it from expanding." "Before being used warm words should be run into the cooling room till the animal heat is out of them." "Fashionable happiness always costs just a little more than you are making." "There is only one place in the world where you can live a happy life, that is inside your income." "It is better to shut up and seem dull than to open up and prove yourself a fool." As to exercise, "Remember a man always rides to his grave, he never walks there." "What this generation really needs is a little less pie and a little more piety." "Criminal carelessness is a bad thing, but the carelessness that makes criminals is worse."

"Balance, the Fundamental Verity." By Orlando J. Smith. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25 net.

A remarkable book. Its theme, "The fundamental harmony between science and religion," old as it is, is dealt with in such unique, clear, forceful, Fiske-like freshness as to make easy and intensely interesting reading. The book is prophetic, excellent type of that new apologetic of which Drummond was a pioneer. Nor could anything be more seasonable at this time of the recrudescence of materialism, under Haeckel and the clever "Clarion" editor, Blatchford. Standing on Newton's axiom that "to every action there is an equal reaction," the author proceeds to show that balance—"that principle or order . . . through which comes universal adjustment"—is supreme in "things mean and minute, as well as in the noble and great," in the moral as in the physical world. Here, indeed, and here alone is scientific basis for religion, and religious explanation of science; the one "fundamental verity," and interpretation of all that is. The whole book is a splendid vindication of Browning's—

"God's in His heaven
All's right with the world."

And though our author puts not into his concept of God what the poet did, his cheery optimism, scientific precision, and transparent sincerity have brought forth a bracing, thought-provoking book, which every Christian minister, especially, will do well to read.

"The Castle Comedy." By Thompson Buchanan. New York: Harper & Bros. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 236. Price, \$2.00 net.

The signs of Christmas appear in the dainty holiday issues of the press. One of the most beautiful of these is "The Castle Comedy," by Thomas Buchanan. It is bound in delicate lavender, with gilt top and full-page illustrations in colour by Elizabeth Shippen Green, and quaint decorative effects by the same artist along the margin of each page. The story is a dainty romance of the days of Napoleon. Its scenes are laid in England, which was continually on the *qui vive* under the menace of invasion by the archdespot of Europe. A French scion of an English house is reduced to the necessity of earning his living by giving instructions in the niceties of French deportment. His experiences in the noble family, whose wilful heiress becomes his pupil, are amusingly interwoven with more stirring adventures with sword and rapier. A testy father, a gallant captain in the English service, and two of Wellington's spies, give vivacity and humour to the tale. It will be one of the favourite holiday books. The dainty decorations on every page are a delight to the eye.

"The Lady of the Lake." By Sir Walter Scott, Bart. With Topography of the Poem by the Late Sir George B. Airy, K.C.B. London: Adam & Chas. Black. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.75.

Bookmaking nowadays has become a fine art. This is the handsomest edition of this classic poem that we have seen. The dainty heather bloom on the cover, the numerous half-tones and the exquisite coloured prints have not, we think, been surpassed. The colour printing especially reveals the delicacy of the birken shaws, the ferns, and brackens, the sombre majesty of Ben Venue, the gloom and glory of loch and strath, of mountain and muir, as we have never seen it so depicted before. The glints of light upon the heathy slopes struggling with the swirling mists takes us to the heart of Scott's country. Holyrood, Stirling, Doune, and Bothwell Castles, Cambuskenneth and Dunfermline Abbeys, Lochs Katrine and Achray and Vennachar are brought vividly before us in picture and poem. An excellent map and minute topog-