

earnest piety and patriotism, his love of the beautiful, both in art and in conduct, his kindness, and, above all, his other-worldliness, expressed in the motto *Vix ea nostra voco*, the unreality of the material and the reality of the unseen world. And, lest Sidney should appear too perfect to be human, the biographer adds that he was improvident, somewhat hot-headed, and inclined to be arrogant and egotistical. This admirable portrait is the culmination and the abundant justification of the whole book.

### THE GATE OF ASIA.

*W. Warfield. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1916, \$2.50, pp. 374.*

This book describes a journey undertaken by the author from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea. It is a pity that the date of the journey—which appears to be 1913—is not added in the title. Such a work, especially at the present moment, cannot fail to excite interest. The history of this district goes back to such a remote past and involves so many different centres of civilization that we are not surprised to find occasionally statements which are not in accordance with usually accepted facts. We are told, for example, that Sparta is one of the places that most of us think of in connection with Greek Art and Literature; that in 608 B. C. King Sardanapalus was defending the last vestiges of Assyrian power; that the Emperor Julian crossed the Tigris two centuries later than 360 A. D.; that the Romans under Pompey besieged and took Van in 67 B. C. and slew its King Tigranes.

There are other items of information for which we should like to know the writer's authority, e.g., that Hystaspes was the father of Cyrus; that Mithradates was a Parthian; that Tamerlane was a descendant of Genghiz Khan; that the word Yazdan is clearly a corruption of the Persian Ahuramazda; that the old Urartian language has been deciphered and the numerous inscriptions translated. Does the author in the last case refer to the attempts at decipherment made by Dr. Mordtmann? The English, too, offers grounds for criticism: we find, for example, "he camped upon us until we should be able to hire him to get off"—meaning apparently "pay him to go,"—"whom we soon discovered wanted our passports," "the women lived aways in the secrecy of their apartments," "they slid down just like sliding down a railway embankment," "to present him the gun as a memento," "against whom they are at deadly feud." Other curious uses of words are "a tremendous culture," "an undulating head," "a burly moustache," "Mosul, the modern Nineveh," "a large shower," "invulnerability"—apparently in the sense of inviolability—and "ark," by which the author seems to mean "citadel." We hasten however to say that the book is written in a decidedly racy style and ought to be of absorbing interest,