

Roumania, and of the recently married Princess Marie. A good index completes the volume.

Sub-Cælum: A Sky-built Human World. By A. P. RUSSELL. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 267. Gilt top. Price, \$1.25.

It is a pleasant task to theoretically reconstruct society on a higher plane and with a nobler ideal. Plato in his "Republic," Sir Thomas More in his "Utopia," Bacon in his "New Atlantis," Lytton, Bellamy, and many others have essayed this kind of world-building, conveying the loftiest ideals. Augustine's "*Civitas Dei*" placed before the dissolute city of Rome, a reflex of the still sublimer City of God, the new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, revealed in the Apocalypse of St. John.

We have recently read in manuscript an admirable book of this sort, marred, however, in our opinion by the fatal defect of utterly ignoring the influence of revealed religion and basing the higher evolution of society on a purely agnostic theory. One of the most ingenious of these books that we have read is the one under review. The author depicts with much detail the reconstructed society of his sky-built human world. It must be a pleasant place to live in. He differs from most theorizers in basing his book on a common-sense interpretation of the evolution of society as science and morals are developed.

Such books give opportunity for a vein of ingenious satire in describing the conditions of our present civilization. This one describes the education of the future, the chairs of "common sense" in the universities, the ennobling and purification of language, the growth of polite manners and charitable judgments, the relations of food to morals, courts of conciliation and arbitration, the prevalence of the Golden Rule, etc. Idleness becomes disreputable, flowers and fruits abound profusely, also fish-ponds, poultry, and especially

the sub-cælum oyster. Scientific drainage and sanitation are perfect, but public buildings, hotels, and the like, are constructed only for one generation, it being cheaper to build anew than to reconstruct old, effete, microbe-infected buildings. The clangor of bells is abolished and music prevails. Weddings are ideal in their adaptation, drunkenness and divorce are abolished, inventors and scholars are particularly honoured. The reign of the microscope and camera have come. Horses are bred for their moral qualities. The social conscience is cultivated, amusements are ennobling and elevating, one of the choicest forms being histrionic reading from the classics. Of course, a high estimate is put on woman. The government is supported by income and annuity taxes. Religion is a life, its essence the Sermon on the Mount, and the new commandment, Love, is its principle, God and humanity the unwritten creed. Worship is conducted in stately buildings, thousands of trained voices, accompanied by the grand organ, sing, "Be thou, O God, exalted high." The book is full of suggestion and inspiration to weary toilers on earth who seek to lift the world up nearer to the heart of God.

Annotations upon Popular Hymns.

By CHARLES SEYMOUR ROBINSON, D.D. For use in Praise-meetings. Sq. 8vo., pp. 581. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$2.50.

Dr. Robinson is well known as one of the most accomplished hymnologists and editors of books of praise. His "*Spiritual Songs*," and two volumes of *Laudes Domini* have made his labours known throughout Christendom. This book has been a labour of love which has employed many years. He has poured out the rich treasury of his hymn lore in these pages. He gives biographical notes on most of the great hymn writers of all the ages, and anecdotes and incidents of the circumstances under which these hymns were written or have been used. The publishers have ably supplemented his