

Book Reviews

By HOWARD S. ROSS.

"HUMAN NATURE AND ITS REMAKING," by Ernest Hocking, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy in Harvard University is published by Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut and New York City. The price is \$3.00 net.

The book is based on the Nathaniel William Taylor lectures delivered during 1916 before the School of Religion of Yale University.

The instincts and innate capacities which form the original endowment of human nature and the effects of the various influences—social, political, and religious—which largely transform this raw material, are the absorbing subjects of this book.

In developing his theme, Doctor Hocking discusses the principles of ethics, education, politics, and religion, and makes especial reference to the views of Nietzsche, Freud and contemporary social psychologists.

"DANIEL AND THE MACCABEES," by Edwyn B. Hooper, M.A., Queens' College, Cambridge, Vicar of Northorpe, Lincolnshire, with a foreword by E. L. Hicks, D.D., Lord Bishop of London, is published by C. W. Daniel, Ltd., 3 Tudor Street, London, E.C. The price is two shillings net.

The author recommends this ancient Jewish book for such a time as this when it is difficult to believe in the divine ruling of the world. The people of that time needed courage to persevere, to be true to the God of their fathers, and so by beautiful story and cryptic prophecy Daniel does his best to give them something of his own deep faith and buoyant hope. But this book, which describes the struggle of a small nation against a mighty Empire is hardly "out of date." God, says the scoffer, is usually on the side of the big battalions. The Maccabean patriots refused to hold such a creed and vindicated their faith gloriously.

"ALCOHOL—ITS ACTION ON THE HUMAN ORGANISM," is published by Longmans, Green & Co., Fourth Avenue and 30th Street, New York. The price is 60 cents net.

This is a review of the existing state of scientific knowledge regarding the action of alcohol on the human organism, prepared by the Advisory Committee appointed in November, 1916, by the Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic) of England.

This committee of recognized experts was appointed "to consider the conditions affecting the physiological action of alcohol, and more particularly the effects on health and industrial efficiency produced by the consumption of beverages of various alcoholic strengths, with special reference to the recent orders of the Central Control Board, and further to plan out and direct such investigations as may appear desirable with a view to obtaining more exact data on this and cognate questions." The conclusions represent the unanimous judgment of the Committee.

"THE GOSPEL FOR A WORKING WORLD," by Harry Frederick Ward is published by The Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada.

The author deals in a practical way with the following problems:—The Right to Live; The Day's Work; The Pay Envelope; War or Peace; Not By Bread Alone; Master and Man; Men and Things, and New Frontiers.

The following from the preface will give some indication of the spirit of this courageous book:—

"A study such as this is inevitably open to the charge of undue sympathy with the wage-earner. That is a question of fact. If the facts show that the producers are not getting equal opportunity with the possessors for the development of personality, then the church, like the prophets and Jesus, must be on their side to the extent of securing justice for them, and must call upon all possessors who would continue to call themselves Christians also to take the side of the weak and the suffering until justice is achieved. The church must seek not merely justice for the suffering and the weak, but justice and the highest spiritual development for all the people." And this from the text:—"The goal of missionary effort is the realization of a great brotherhood of all mankind, united in love and fellowship with the All-Father. But brotherhood must be something more than a spiritual ideal; it must be a fact in the working world. The compulsion is upon us, to find its economic meaning."

This is the sort of social gospel which should help to arrest the drift away from organized Christianity.

"THE SINGLE EYE"—Essays from The Mystic Point of View by Arthur Edward Gray, is published by C. W. Daniel, Ltd., 3 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4. The price is 2 shillings net.

These are particularly thoughtful essays dealing with:—Education; Art; Religion; Politics and War.

"STAR DRIFT," by Brian Padraic O'Seasnaigh is published by The Four Seas Company, Copley Square Building, Boston. The price is \$1.25 net.

These poems are the trophies of a spiritual vagabond who has wandered and explored along a trail leading from Druid Ireland to the forests and cities of America.

The author is better known as "Grey Wolf, the Story Man." By the latter name he is known to thousands of children and grown-ups who have heard his tales by camp fire and fireside. He was also the founder of the famous "Little School in the Woods" at Greenwich, Connecticut. But he above all is a poet, and you will find in this book beautiful dreams and visions and songs.

"TREASURE TROVE"—Passages of Prose & Poetry chosen by Georgina M. Gibson is published by C. W. Daniels, Ltd., 3 Tudor Street, London, E.C.

This book offers in small compass some of the finest passages in English literature, expressing things we blindly accept the system that we were born into, of industrial reform, of government. Says the author "After the passionate, egotistic demands of youth are appeased we begin to be conscious of our relation to the society that we are a part of, either we blindly accept the system that we were born into or we become rebels. That is generally a question of temperament, and few of us, perhaps, can give chapter and verse in support of our position."

"HOW GERMANY DOES BUSINESS," by P. P. Gourvitch (preface by Dr. B. E. Shatsky of Petrograd) is published by B. W. Huebsch, New York City. The price is \$1.00.

Dr. Shatsky says: "For American capital, the field of activity is practically unlimited; development of Russia's mineral deposits; building of her railroads; bettering the methods of her industries (iron, coal, timber, naphtha, etc.); efficient handling of her agricultural products and raw materials; raising the standards of her technique and numerous other undertakings."

The author deals in brief and pointed chapters with:—Politics and Economics; Banking; The Merchant Marine; Exports; Export Publicity; Export By Mail; Imitation and Counterfeiting; The Cost of Labor; Germans as Importers and Re-Exporters and Foreign Investors, and in the last chapter German International Policy in Foreign Trade is discussed in an interesting and instructive manner.

The author of this valuable little book of less than 150 pages has the happy faculty of giving much information in little space.

"ETHICS OF DEMOCRACY," by Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Washington, D.C., author of Taxation of Land Values, etc., is published by Bobbs-Merrill Company, publishers, Indianapolis. The price is \$1.50.

The book is dedicated to Henry George, "Preceptor and friend, who profoundly explored the principles of social life for very love of mankind, a political economist who scientifically traced economic laws to their roots in the moral law, a popular leader who quailed before no moral wrong, a devoted champion, whose faith was grounded in moral right, a constructive statesman who saw in the ethics of democracy the natural laws of human progress."

Economics that the man in the street may comfortably grasp, closely knit argument, anecdotes and figures wit and irony that stick like burrs in the memory—the book offers much.

The subject is so searchingly treated, so comprehensively handled that it probes into nearly every phase of American life.

A few of the topics discussed which will stimulate independent thinking are:—

The democratic optimist; the college graduate; the nature of success; Is honesty the best policy? Is man his brother's keeper? great fortunes; department stores; socialism; the Single Tax; free competition; the laborer and his hire; foreign trade; universal suffrage; imperialism and patriotism.

A brilliant study of great popular interest, is Ethics of Democracy.

"SUMPTUARY LAW IN NURNBERG—A STUDY IN PATERNAL GOVERNMENT," by Kent Roberts Greenfield, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History in Delaware College, is published by the Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore.

This is series 36, No. 2, of Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science.

Sumptuary regulation prevailed throughout Europe in the legislation of all varieties of sovereign authority from an early date in the Middle Ages until the opening of the nineteenth century. Statutes of the English Parliament, ordinances of the French kings, decrees of the emperors and diets of Germany were issued from time to time with the intention of restricting the different classes of the population in the indulgence of what was thought to be luxury. Alongside of these acts of general legislation some of the most interesting forms of sumptuary ordinance are to be found in the little governments of the free cities of the mediaeval Roman Empire, particularly in Germany and Italy. One of these communities affords the subject of this study.

When we think historically of Blue Laws, we are apt to think of Geneva and the Puritans. But, as Professor Vincent has pointed out in "European Blue Laws," laws of the same type as the regulations of Protestant Geneva or of the Puritans were part of the normal program of legislation in the free cities of Europe long before the day of Calvin or Cromwell. It is particularly interesting to note the large measure of home rule enjoyed by the free cities, and Nurnberg is no exception.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM.

TIME-TABLE CHANGES SEPT. 29th, 1918.

Commencing Sunday, Sept. 29th, the International Limited, Train No. 1, will leave Bonaventure Station, Montreal, at 9.30 a.m. daily instead of at 9.35 a.m. for Toronto, Detroit, Chicago, etc. Other important changes in time tables will also be made on that date. Information now in Agents' hands.

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