

Islamism is over the home of the most ancient civilization of the world. The bulk of the book is devoted to the recent explorations at Nippur, midway between the Euphrates and the Tigris on one of the principal canals of Babylonia, which Hilprecht has identified with the River Chebar of Ezekiel's vision. Ample details, with maps, sections, and photos, are given of these explorations and their modern surroundings.

This serious work is not without its dash of humour in the eccentricities, to put it mildly, of the native assistants, and the difficulties imposed by the ignorance and superstition of the local authorities. The author is a sturdy patriot and covets for his country the honour of doing on the Tigris and Euphrates work and exploration work like that which it has done upon the Nile. He shows Great Britain, instead of being a selfish land-grabber and money-grabber, to have been self-sacrificing in the East to an extraordinary degree. It has policed the Persian Gulf for a century, and suppressed slavery and piracy on its waters and its shores, and has gained nothing except the satisfaction of knowing that it has done so well. "All we ask is," he says, "that other nations should honourably regard the existing condition of things and refrain from seeking a foothold in this region as we ourselves have refrained."

He refers to the undeniable fact that Russia is intriguing against Britain in Persia with a never-relaxing watchfulness, and an unscrupulous use of means which the British would never dream of employing. The lack of a strong policy in the Persian Gulf is like, he says, to cost us dear. Since this was written the intrigues of Russia in Thibet, in China, in Persia, are, we judge, being pretty well neutralized.

"Success Among Nations." By Emil Reich, Doctor Juris. Author of "Graeco-Roman Institutions," etc. etc. Toronto: George N. Morang & Co. 8vo: Pp. xiii-270. Price, \$1.50.

This is the first philosophical attempt that we know to cast the horoscope of nations from their historic evolution. It presents a psychological study of history by giving a bird's-eye view of the forces which have raised some nations to the glorious success, while their absence has pre-

vented others from holding their own in the battle for existence. This mode of interpretation has been partially used as to the past in Guizot's "History of Civilization," in Kingsley's "The Roman and the Teuton," and in Bryce's "The Holy Roman Empire," but the scientific forecast of the future has not been hitherto attempted. The author is an Hungarian, who has lived in different countries of Europe and the United States, and is unusually well-equipped for his comparative studies. The British Empire, he says, is entirely unique in its character, unlike any of the great empires of antiquity, and depending upon her sea power for her success. Her civilization will always be great, but lacking an all-round perfection. France, he thinks, will always be the leading nation in Europe on account of her wealth, her intellectuality, and her numerous reverses, which have sobered and steeled her. Russia has neither wealth, material nor intellectual, to make her a world power, and is, moreover, cankered by the superstitions of the Greek Church. The chief perils of Germany are socialism and the antagonistic forces of Austria, Italy, and France; but she will realize much of a higher type of civilization. America stands for opportunity. It will be in the economic centre of the globe, but will not achieve the highest intellectual success, which rests on the intense personality to which absolute democracy is hostile. Religious success depends upon personalities of its founders, as Moses, Jesus, Mohammed. Without by any means accepting all its conclusions, this is very stimulating and thought-provoking book.

"A Century of Drink Reform in the United States." By August F. Fehlandt. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 410. Price, \$1.50.

It is only when we come to take stock of a century's progress of any great moral reform that we learn how great that progress is. While the drink problem is greater and more difficult than ever before, yet the conscience of the nations has been roused as never before. Armies have been marshalled and the battle set in array, the final issue of which no lover of his kind or believer in God can doubt.

This important book discusses the great question under the four heads of Agitation, Complication, Education, and Adjudication. Under the first it