

Book Notices.

Dreamers of the Ghetto. By I. ZANGWILL.
New York: Harper & Bros.; Toronto:
William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

The influence of Hebrew thought on literature, science, art, politics and religion would be a fascinating subject for a book or essay. A strong reason for the jealousy exhibited toward the Jewish race is its predominant influence in journalism and finance and politics in Central Europe. In the serene regions of philosophy and poetry the same jealousy does not exist.

In this book a Son of Israel, proud of the traditions of his race, gives a series of brief biographies treated in the form of romantic sketches. The Ghettos and Judengassen, in which the Jews from time immemorial have been confined in the cities of Europe, are made to yield their striking stories of the strange Hebrew people.

"They lived in narrow streets and lanes
obscure,
Ghetto and Judenstrass, in mirk and
mire;
Taught in the school of patience to endure
The life of anguish and the death of fire.

"For in the background figures vague and
* and vast
Of patriarchs and of prophets rose sub-
lime,
And all the great traditions of the past
They saw reflected in the coming time."

Among these figures are the philosopher Spinoza, the poet Heine, Acosta, Sabbatai Zevi, the Turkish Messiah and others. The sketches, we judge, are historically correct. The author gives their subjects a sympathetic interpretation. There is a vein of pensiveness, almost of sadness and pessimism in these dreamers—these gropers after truth who often fail to find it. The book throws considerable light on Jewish character. Rejecting the true Messiah and devoting such time and thought to the lying legends of the Talmud, their judgment has been sadly perverted, and, to use the poet's words again, they misread the whole history of their race and of the world,

"And thus forever with reverted look
The mystic volume of the world they
read,
Spelling it backward, like a Hebrew book,
Till life became a legend of the dead."

Through the Gold Fields of Alaska to Behring Straits. By HARRY DE WINDT, F.R.G.S., author of "A Ride to India," etc. With a map and illustrations. Pp. xii., 314. 8vo, cloth, ornamental. New York: Harper & Bros.; Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$2.50.

This is an account of an English traveler with a foreign-looking name through the regions which have become famous throughout the world as the Arctic Eldorado. It describes not only the Klondike, but the little known region stretching on to Behring Straits. The intrepid explorer had many painful experiences and adventures, which are vividly recorded in this book. "It will hold the attention," says the *Christian Intelligencer*, "as the best novels do." "Not many recent successes in the way of recent travel" says the *London Chronicle*, "equal it in grim human interest." The book is gotten up in the admirable style of the Harper's Publishing House. It has excellent maps and numerous full-page illustrations. A valuable appendix gives detailed information as to routes and rates, costs of stores, etc. We shall give this book fuller notice later.

Hassan: A Fella. A Romance of Palestine. By HENRY GILLMAN. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.; Toronto: William Briggs.

The writer of this book was for some years United States Consul at Jerusalem. He writes with an intimate knowledge of the peasants of Palestine, and with keen sympathy with their humble joys and sorrows. He has also made a special study of the ancient and modern history of the country, of its archaeology, ethnology, geography and topography. On these subjects his story throws much light. Many who would not study these subjects in a systematic treatise will be beguiled into reading them when interwoven with a story. The almost unchanged manners and customs of Palestine to-day make it, as it has been well said, a Fifth Gospel and a perpetual commentary on the Scriptures.

Much human interest is given to this tale by the simple love story of Hassan and Hilwe—a shepherd lad and a village maid. But their villages have a blood feud, which verifies the adage, "The