

edly large sale for the same.—*Henry R. Harrower, M.D., 921-931 Schiller Building, Chicago. Bound in soft leather. Price, \$1.50.*

### Rural Hygiene.

A valuable addition to the Rural Science Series, published by the Macmillans in a volume on "Rural Hygiene," by Henry N. Ogden, C.E., Professor of Sanitary Engineering in the College of Civil Engineering, and special assistant engineer in the New York State Department of Health. The subject is treated from the broad standpoint that presents man's mode of living as reacting on those domiciled in this vicinity. Carrying human interdependence to its consistent conclusion, the author reaches the broad question of the cause of spread of disease and the transmission of bacteria, and the natural influences which, more or less under the control of man, affect a large area if allowed to develop. The point of view of the engineer leads him to quarantine, disinfectants and prevention rather than to etiology and treatment, especially as the new methods apply to the populations of the country, where authority is lacking and public hygiene, to a certain extent, must rest on a sense of honor.

Vital statistics are given and the way is pointed out to raising the standard of living, so that without specific laws, individual will or instinct may lead the normal countryman to live according to hygienic rule and in harmony with his environment. The chapter on diseases is especially informing. Pellagra, a complaint peculiar to the country and formerly supposed to be connected with spoiled corn, is hard to dislodge when once established, and is accompanied by intense suffering. It is common in Italy, and recently has made its appearance in the United States, where it is on the increase. The work will be found truly useful and well worth a careful perusal. — *Rural Hygiene, by Henry N. Ogden, C.E., Professor of Sanitary Engineering in the College of Civil Engineering and Special Assistant Engineer in the New York State Department of Health. New York: The Macmillan Company.*

### A Study of Race and Environment.

The Jewish people being dispersed among the nations and living under very various conditions in every part of the world, it becomes a matter of great interest to ascertain how far they exhibit characteristics which may be considered peculiar to themselves and differing from those of the peoples in the midst of whom they dwell. The subject is very thoroughly treated in a recent work by Maurice Fishberg, of New York, entitled *The Jews: A Study of Race and Environment*.

In the author's opinion, the generally accepted idea that Jews are an example of an absolutely pure race is altogether erroneous. This view is likely to find little favor among his co-religionists, who have always been assured and proud of the purity of their race. It may, however, be said that the author is not alone in his opinion, which is held by many of the more thoughtful followers of the creed. The probability that, during the time polygamy was customary, there was a constant admixture of foreign blood cannot be ignored, and the author is undoubtedly correct in the assertion that at times large groups of strangers or even whole peoples have adopted the Jewish faith and have been absorbed into the race. At the same time, it must be remembered that for many centuries the rule of monogamous marriage has been generally adopted, and that since the Middle Ages at least, there has been little intermarriage with other races until within quite recent times. The author calls attention to the absence of a cranial type common to all Jews, and asserts that every variety of cranium has been found among them, from an extremely round head in Caucasian Jews to heads of an equally marked dolichocephalic character in those of Africa and Arabia, the prevailing type in every case resembling that of the people among whom they dwelt. This would seem to go far in support of the contention that there has been a mixture of race, but the author is on less sure ground when he cites the variety of stature and complexion in support of his view. It cannot be held to be by any means certain that changes in habit and conditions of life may not have their influence in producing the varieties mentioned. Marked increase of stature, for instance, has been observed in the