

The Color Line: A Brief in Behalf of the Unborn. By W. B. Smith, Professor of Mathematics, Tulane University, New Orleans. New York: McClure, Phillips & Co. \$1.50.

The crux of this book lies in a series of statements arguing the negro's inferiority, carefully culled data in support of these statements, and finally several conclusive assertions relegating the negro to oblivion—all this rather clumsily combined and not over-free from sectional animosity. The extinction of the negro is to the author a certain calamity, while deportation finds here learned and biased support. The author has evidently been quite anxious to give his book the air of a scientific treatise. The attitude of the South toward the negro is thus stated: "The color line must be drawn firmly, unflinchingly," and because, otherwise, "as a race, the Southern Caucasian would be irreversibly doomed." After devoting 260 pages and marshaling several hundred quotations to prove the negro's inferiority, this latter statement seems both inconsistent and impotent. Professor Smith's book contains no new thing and presents old facts with decreased force. He has not made one group study; his data, tables and even his deductions are quotations—and these are not faithfully nor unbiasedly compiled. As to this much-mooted color line, it was once remarked that the great

chasm between black and white is only skin-deep, and the South has certainly tried to fill it up, for there is a regular percentage of negroes who annually cross it. *The Color Line* is neither a contribution to our knowledge upon the race problem nor will it help us to approach it with freedom and fairness. It is only valuable as an effort to substantiate the South's treatment of the negro. We should not recommend the book to the exact or esthetic reader, since it contains neither scientific accuracy nor literary excellence.

