

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PEOPLES. *By Gustave Le Bon.* (New York: The Macmillan Co. \$1.50.) The chief proposition in this book is the denial of the equality of men. This idea, the author declares, has shaken the foundation of the old societies, given birth to the most formidable of revolutions, and thrown the Western world into a series of convulsions the end of which it is impossible to foresee. Science, however, has demonstrated that this idea is chimerical. According to M. Le Bon, we now know that every race has its own soul, that each people possesses its own mental constitution, as unalterable as its anatomical characteristics, a constitution which is the source of its sentiments, thoughts, institutions, beliefs and arts. Institutions are effects, not causes. They are the expression, the visible expression, of the invisible national soul. This soul, by means of heredity, determines the entire evolution of a people, and the environment has comparatively little influence. In order to maintain these propositions, it is necessary to assume that a race is a permanent being, independent of time. The individual is the representative of the race, which may be compared to the totality of cells that constitute a living being. If this assumption be granted, and M. Le Bon takes it for granted, it is easy to philosophize concerning history and politics. Given a race-soul, of determined characteristics, and all the rest follows. The application of this theory to the history of particular races constitutes the bulk of this book. We cannot deny that these details are worked out in an interesting way, or that the author's style is brilliant and captivating. But since we know nothing of souls, except the souls of individual human beings, it is evident that such generalizations as these are purely visionary.

There may be collective souls, but their existence is unproved. Like many of our modern sociological speculations, this essay is really based on the medieval doctrine of realism. Once admit the real existence of abstractions, and all the absurdities of the scholastic metaphysics are revived. The views of M. Le Bon concerning national characteristics are frequently instructive; but we cannot regard his theories as possessing any scientific value.

ECONOMICS. By *Edvard Thomas Devine*. (New York: The Macmillan Company.) There are so many excellent manuals of economics that it is hard to see why this book should have been published. It contains little that is of practical value, and its vague generalizations are, for the most part, merely the opinions which the author prefers, or those which he has received upon authority. He finds it necessary to state the elements of several sciences as conditioning economic science, and thus makes his own work more indefinite by enlarging its scope. So far as he restates the well established principles of political economy he is on safe ground, but we do not find that his restatement is an improvement. The book is, in fact, one of those pseudo-scientific treatises which with much pretention of profundity really darken counsel. Platitudes, tho in pompous garb, are wearisome reading, and while some of Mr. Devine's views are attractively expressed and superficially philosophical, they fade away so soon as they are subjected to critical scrutiny. Doubtless readers are found for books of this description, but we do not think that such readers are much wiser for their pains.

FIELDS, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. By *P. Kropotkin*. (New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. \$3.00.) The wonderful advances of scientific agriculture are here set forth with abounding enthusiasm. These advances have so captivated the author's imagination as to lead him to declare that the time is coming when every people shall produce its own subsistence within its own borders, and not only its food, but its manufactures also. More than this, instead of vast cities, the world shall be filled with small, self-sustaining communities, satisfying all their

wants by co-operative production, and dispensing with middlemen. To grow the yearly food of a family, "under rational conditions of culture, requires so little labor that it might almost be done as a change from other pursuits." In fact, less than half a day needs be given to work, leaving the remainder for the pursuit of art, science, or any hobby that the individual might prefer. Moreover, every man and woman on reaching the age of forty could be relieved from manual work, and allowed free scope for other pursuits. This prospect appears to us somewhat remote, and we observe few signs of progress in its direction; but while we may not accept the author's theories, we must admit that his descriptions of the progress of agriculture are brilliant, and even fascinating.

A VOYAGE TO THE MOON. By *Monsieur Cyrano de Bergerac*. (New York: Doubleday & McClure. 50 cents.) This is Lovell's translation of a not very interesting work which owes its present appearance to the great popularity of the play founded upon Cyrano de Bergerac's life and adventures. The prefatory biographical essay by Mr. Curtis Hidden Page is interesting, giving as it does a delightfully chatty running account of the great swashbuckler's career.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DIGESTION. By *A. Lockhart Gillespie, M.D.* Illustrated by figures, diagrams and charts. (London: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.) This is a most valuable volume of *The Contemporary Science Series*, and combines the most thorough scientific investigation of digestion, in vegetables, animals and man, with a clear and untechnical explanation of the reason why certain foods are best in certain circumstances, and other very different foods in other different circumstances, for the same individual. Beginning with the nutrition of the simplest unicellular organism and its food, and its ingestion of that food, the author proceeds, step by step, upward in the scale—each assertion fortified by ample experiments, and made plain to an unlearned reader by charts and diagrams. No cognate subject is neglected—Hunger, Thirst, Smell, Taste, Dietetics and Animal Heat, Metabolism of Fat, Stimulants, Foods,

etc. The chemistry of all possible foods and drinks is given, so that more than half the book might be called *The Chemistry of Ingesta*, but the remainder in simple language, but with a clearness that only completest knowledge can impart, teaches what to eat and drink, and when, and how, in order to secure the highest health. It shows the reason why—that is so satisfactory to the intelligent eater.

THE FAIRYLAND OF SCIENCE. *By Arabella B. Buckley.* (New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.) This is the authorized edition of a delightful and instructive book for children. It consists of ten lectures delivered in St. John's Wood in the spring of 1878; but the matter has been revised and rewritten to bring it down to date. Science is discussed familiarly in a way to explain its leading facts and at the same time appeal to the imagination of young folks. The book is fully illustrated.

THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE, *Edited, with Introductions and Notes, by O. H. Herford, Litt.D., Professor of English Language and Literature in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. X Vols., Vol. I.* (New York: The Macmillan Co. \$1.50.) This handy edition of Shakespeare forms a part of the well-known Eversley series of the English classics. The introduction and notes are well suited to the needs of the ordinary student, the print and paper are good and the general make-up of the volume is very attractive.

THE POEMS OF THOMAS CAREW. *Edited by Arthur Vincent.* (London: Lawrence & Bullen, Ltd. New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.75.) This handsome one-volume edition of Carew is issued in the "Muses' Library" series. It is handsomely bound in dark green and gold, with a portrait of the poet facing the title page. The biographical introduction and bibliographical and explanatory notes are sufficiently full for the uses of student and general reader.

MARYSIENKA. *By K. Walliszewski. Translated from the French by Lady Mary Loyd.* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.00.) This is a romance of history—a story from life. Marie de la Grange D'Arquien is the heroine, Sobleski, King of Poland, the hero. It is a

book after the style of Arsène Housaye's *Le Roi Voltaire*, a breezy, Frenchy dilution of the facts connected with a romantic love and a career as wonderful as it is picturesque. Marie was the daughter of an obscure French captain; she made her way to the throne of Poland. By what means she did it the author of this book assumes to explain. The translation is well done.

STORIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR CHILDREN. *By Harriet S. B. Beale.* (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co.) In this handsome book are collected some of the principal stories found in the Old Testament. They are told for children, familiarly and simply, and with as little change of the biblical language as is consistent with the plan.

CHILDREN OF THE MIST. *By Eden Phillpotts.* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.) A Dartmoor romance with a great deal of dialect and unusual power in it. Mr. Phillpotts compels critical admiration by the exhibition of rare patience, steadiness and reserve in working out his story, which is long and at times is almost tedious. He has a deep insight, and the life he depicts is not superficial; his figures take form slowly, but they breathe and live at last, forcing themselves upon attention and sympathy with something like personal magnetism. The descriptive parts of the story are exceedingly fine, and while the dialect interferes with a perfect enjoyment of the conversations, the humor is often admirable. It is a story which to be rightly enjoyed must be read patiently and slowly, with no thought of how or when the end is to come. It is written thoughtfully and demands thought.

ST. MARY'S HALL, LECTURES AND OTHER PAPERS. *By Henry Budd.* (Philadelphia: H. T. Coates & Co. \$1.50.) Most of the lectures in these pages were delivered at St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. J. They are on a variety of subjects. "La Vendée," "The Chevalier Bayard," "Ancient and Modern Drama," "Norse Mythology," and "The Groundwork of English Literature" are chapter headings that will give a fair hint of the book's general character. The style is plain and not particularly attractive, but students and general readers will find much to interest them in the papers.