

President Porter's theoretical and practical treatise covers the field of ethics with his usual comprehensiveness and thoroughness. His aim was to provide a text-book for college classes, not a scholastic treatise; and its method seems to adapt it well to that purpose. Dr. Porter is rationalistic and naturalistic in his moral theorizing, while not at all an evolutionist, and quite distinct in his handling of the science from such a writer as Leslie Stephen, to whom, indeed, as to Herbert Spencer, he fails to do justice. But the objections to the *a priori* theories of former moralists are rarely better summarized than here. These theories "have this in common, that they all derive the ethical relations and emotions from man as an individual." The intuitional theory contradicts the testimony of consciousness, which makes us aware of a process of judgment of actions,—superfluous, if we have an intuitional power; while the theories of a moral sense and a "categorical imperative" alike disregard the element of reflection entering into all moral action. Of Kant's ethics, Leslie Stephen has well said that it has only one defect,—that it has no relation whatever to human nature as we know it. President Porter's system, on the contrary, is drawn from experience; and he holds "that moral relations and feelings require no special faculty or endowment. They are the necessary products or results of two conspicuous human endowments,—the reflective intellect and the voluntary impulses or affections. The reflective intellect cannot but find the norm or standard of duty in the natural capacities of man. So soon as it conceives of any ideal whatever for aspiration or control, so soon as it recognizes such an ideal, it necessarily imposes it as a law for the voluntary faculties. This ideal thus recognized and imposed becomes a moral law. . . . The moral relations, so far as they are rational or intellectual, are not original categories, but are the necessary result of a special application of the category of adaptation or design. . . . The moral nature or the moral faculty are but other names for the human faculties,

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\* *The Elements of Moral Science, Theoretical and Practical.* By Noah Porter, D.D., LL.D. pp. xxv, 574. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

when employed upon a special subject-matter and in a peculiar manner." This psychological naturalism marks a decided advance upon the irrational moral philosophy usually taught in our colleges, and we trust that President Porter's text-book will find wide acceptance. N. P. G.

Mr. W. A. Hovey's *Mind-reading and Beyond* is a compilation from reports of the London Society for Psychical Research, and is concerned almost entirely with the phenomena of thought transference witnessed in three different cases. Guessing numbers and cards and reproduction of sketches are the main subjects investigated. The experiments under the conduct of Mr. Malcolm Guthrie, the philosophical linen-draper of Liverpool, are particularly interesting. The volume is a contribution of pertinent facts not yet reduced to laws, in that fascinating borderland of psychology still insufficiently explored, but which must in time be forced to yield up all its secrets. (Lee & Shepard.) N. P. G.