

OUR MAGAZINE SHELF.

NOTICE.—Books, coming under the subjects to which this Magazine is devoted, will be received, and as space permits, impartially reviewed, irrespective of author or publisher.

The duty of the reviewer is to present to our readers a true and unbiased account of his charge. There is no deviation from this principle.—Ed.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF HEALERS, by James Macbeth. W. K. Smith, 3 Constitution Road, Dundee, 1906. 57 pages, 16vo.

This seemed another book on metaphysical, mental, New Thought healing, and of

those there are almost too many. But on leafing through, the attention was more than once arrested, and on careful reading our judgment is that this is a beautiful little book through which a spirit of love is breathed. Mr. James Leith Macbeth Bain (his real name) shows us with Emerson how healing consists "in being the channel through which heaven flows to earth." The philosophy is sound throughout. The style is modest and shows the warm, generous, and truly mystic temperament of the author, who seems to be a natural healer.

Altruism is the first law of this Brotherhood, which declares that it is the true representative on earth of the unnamed and unconstituted church of Christ, and that the desire never can come to them to be recognized by the spirit of this world as an earthly organism.

The following is a fair instance of Mr. Macbeth's teachings:

"In a man of pure soul, whose feelings are sweet with love, and whose thoughts are clean from all self-seeking or any unworthiness, the Holy Spirit will work as a power of blessing to his body, and to the body of every man or beast, or bird or plant, or any living creature he touches with his hand or with his breath, or influences mentally; and that is so even though he be not robust, or in rude health physically.

In a man of impure soul, whose desires are unclean, whose mind is of the viler stuff of this earth, whose feelings are bitter with hate, and whose thoughts are defiled by selfishness, the same Spirit of life, who is, indeed, the One, or Holy Spirit, can only work by corruption, making for decay and final disintegration in his own body and in the body of every man or beast or any living creature he may touch or influence with his mind; and that is so even though he be of a robust frame, or in rude health physically. And if these two men were to live together, the latter would draw the life principle from the former, and might even so affect him as to hasten his death. For in spiritual things the higher must give its life unto the lower."

So, he says, every one who serves or blesses the body of humanity, socially or politically, is as truly a healer as one who cures paralysis or insomnia. Stress is laid throughout on nobleness, saintliness, and unselfish love for humanity, upon the great possibilities in the people of good will, upon the silencing of the superficial selfhood with the utter abandonment of the old, animal, self-assertive self, together with its foolish talking, vain jesting, incontinent thoughts and unholy desires.

Mr. Bain, though himself not a meat-eater, hesitates to lay down any law on this subject, recognizing that many are forced to live in cities, whose stomachs have been used to flesh food. He says, "I take no money for healing. I can do without it." Certainly, this is one of the first characteristics of the true healer. "Openness of Channelhood" he calls his work. He tries, it would seem, to practice what he preaches. In his book he often mentions, incidentally, his association with and the healing by him of the poor and lowly, such as London dock hands, Scotch fishermen, the quarrymen of North Wales, and the iron workers and miners of the North of England. He says that his work as a healer is of the kind that any whole and generous man can surely develop it. His sound philosophy is manifest everywhere, so, for instance, when he says that "there are cases where the disease is so evidently the fruit of the action of an unholy soul, that the healer who is enlightened of the Spirit, would refuse to interfere with the working of the law of life and would not wrong that soul by ridding it of its painful means of purification."

The author treats all sects and creeds with fairness. No one can read this book without feeling drawn to the author as to a simple and noble friend of humanity.

AQUARIUS.