

MR. LESLIE STEPHEN, probably the best-known living writer that holds to the name Agnostic, has collected together into one handsomely printed volume his various contributions to English and American periodicals. He treats of the scepticism of believers and unbelievers, dreams and realities, of materialism, of Newman's theory of belief and of poisonous opinions. With his line of thought and his nervous, picturesque style our readers are probably already familiar. Chapter VII. treats of the religion of all sensible men, and this is really the most valuable paper in the collection, because it is less polemic and more constructive. In the main, however, despite the modernness of the language, and the line of thought, supposed to be fresh and timely, the book really belongs on the controversial shelves, among the old parchment-bound row of "extinct volcanoes." Still, the work will help those who, by the criticism of Christianity or through current religions, may be brought towards the reality of things. The full title of the book is "An Agnostic's Apology, and Other Essays." The name of the author alone is sufficient to secure a fair measure of circulation for the work. (\$2.50. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)—THE HYMNAL of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States has been revised and renumbered. The book is in the form recommended by the Committee on the Hymnal appointed by the General Convention of 1886, which modified the edition in our hands, and is duly certified as a pocket volume containing six hundred and seventy-nine hymns, with thirty-one doxologies, index of first lines, index of authors and a number of morning and evening canticles. It is neatly printed and pleasant to the eye. The catholic taste, which has reigned in the selection, is a good omen for that church unity for which all good Christians are praying. (James Pott & Co.)—TWENTY YEARS of study of Tennyson have given the Rev. Henry van Dyke, D.D., of the Brick Church, New York, a remarkable mastery of English. His style is diamond-clear, strong, and sparkling, with a winning power that is noticeable on every page. Straight as an arrow these "Sermons" have been shot from a well-tried bow. Preached before the universities of Yale, Harvard and Princeton, they are tried arrows of the chase. In book-form, they have evidently received a good deal of treatment from such a tool as Horace's file. Hence they will attract readers as they once attracted hearers. Among the themes treated of are Faith, Courage, Power and Redemption. The first sermon treats of a man and the latter calls our attention to the glorious horizon of those who study the revealed will of God. The Scriptural characters, Abraham, Solomon and Peter, are made to teach us anew the lessons that are never old. The book is presented in unusually handsome style. (\$1.25. Chas. Scribner's Sons.)