

FROM AGNOSTICISM TO THEISM. By Charles F. Dole.
Cloth. Pp. 30. Price, thirty cents. Boston: James H. West
Company.

THIS is the best short argument addressed to agnostics in favor of theism that we have read. Mr. Dole is nothing if not rationalistic in his methods. At the outset he discards the childhood idea of Deity as being a magnified specimen of an Oriental potentate, but on the other hand he is a firm believer in the new-old concept which holds that God is ever-present throughout the universe; that the universe is, indeed, a mighty conscious entity, in which the moral order or spiritual verities is so apparent as to prove it to be spiritual rather than merely mechanical, as Haeckel and other great thinkers hold. This concept of Deity, which is so rapidly gaining a hold upon the mind of western civilization, is of course not new, being very similar to the ancient Indian concept whose origin is shrouded in antiquity. Mr. Dole's reasoning is very clear and convincing. His language is simple and impressive. All can readily understand his terminology. Yet the composition no less than the close, logical handling of the great theme, speaks of ripe scholarship; while the spirit of fairness and the innate love of truth, which are present throughout his argument, will captivate the reader.

In closing his argument the author introduces a little parable in which a tiny vein in a man's hand is supposed to possess consciousness. It is a decidedly agnostic vein, and because it cannot see the mighty conscious organism of which it is an infinitesimal part in its entirety, it doubts and denies the existence of such an entity. The parable is admirably told and forms a happy illustrative climax to the argument.

This book should be widely circulated among thoughtful agnostics.