

Dr. Charles W. Eliot's "The Training for an Effective Life" (Houghton) is a compact little

volume containing seven lectures or addresses to students. When one recalls some of the classic utterances to students by Emerson, Carlyle, and others, one realizes all that such exhortations to the higher life by a veteran scholar might be, and one regrets the more that such exhortations should contain anything that savors of the merely platitudinous. In few sentences does Dr. Eliot's book rise above the level of Samuel Smiles's "Self-Help." The Englishman's heaven of "Getting on" is too persistently held before the mind of the reader. One is forced to recall Ruskin's scathing satire on that idea of "advancement in life" which means having a visitor's and servant's bell at one's door, and his suggestion that advancement in life conceived in such terms may mean literally "advancement in death"; or that the most pathetic life-failures are to be found among what the world calls the effective successes. We are distressed, also, by one or two obvious slips which amount almost to a descent into the grotesque. On page 5 the author defines an honorable man as "one who never oppresses or cheats a person that is weaker or poorer than himself." We had assumed that an honorable man is equally scrupulous in his dealings with the powerful and rich. Again, the student is enjoined to "associate with your superiors rather than with your inferiors; this is an excellent rule on which to select your friends." The obvious rejoinder is that this may turn out to be rather hard upon our superiors; and that the altruism which Dr. Eliot assures his readers "is an important element in the enjoyment of most kinds of work," might suggest seeking the companionship of our inferiors for the infe-

riors' sake if not for our own. Some one has said of Jesus that he not only loved the poor and outcast; he did more, he *liked* them, and preferred their company to that of the rich and powerful. Perhaps Dr. Eliot intends his injunction to point to our *spiritual* superiors, regardless of wealth, education, or social status; but we fear that most readers of his address entitled "The Character of a Gentleman" will hardly interpret his words in this way. On the whole, this little book does nothing to enhance the high estimate in which Dr. Eliot is held, and for that reason we could have wished it had not been published.