

*An Introduction to Social Philosophy*, by John S. Mackenzie (Macmillan), is a well-meant attempt to bring some order out of the chaos of schemes for the reconstruction of society. After an extended critical review of philosophic methods and the relations of the different departments of philosophy to each other, a glance is taken at the development of society as shown in history, and the different theories of society are considered upon a careful examination of the theory that society is an organism. The author finds it shallow and unsatisfactory. The Hedonistic ideal is considered and rejected, and the true end of social life found to be self-realization. As the realization of the highest life of the individual is impossible without the co-operation of others, there is a coincidence, although in practice imperfectly realized, between the ideal of the individual and that of society. This ideal depends upon three elements—individual culture, the subjugation of Nature and social organization, and true progress must include progress in all three. The details of this progress are worked out in a suggestive and interesting manner, and the whole discussion is marked with scholarship as well as good sense. But, after all, we apprehend, that mankind will find that in dealing with social problems experience is a safer guide than the "prophetic insight" of the philosopher.

*Electricity*. By E. M. Caillard. Illustrated, (New York, D. Appleton & Co.

\$1.25.) This work is called by the author "a sketch for general readers," and as such it will be found both interesting and instructive. It is written in a clear, straightforward style, and its arrangement is excellent. The text is divided into four parts: I, Static Electricity; II, Magnetism; III, Current Electricity; IV, Practical Appliances of Electricity; these are followed by a concluding chapter containing a consideration of the question: What is Electricity? and a note on the Polarization and Magnetization of Light. It does not purport to be an exhaustive treatise, but for the general reader it projects the whole theory and much of the practice of electricity in a very plain and comprehensive form. Magnetism, the galvanic battery; chemical and physiological effects of the current; electromagnets; the action of currents upon currents, the measurement of currents; magneto-electric and dynamo-electric machines; electric lighting; the telegraph; the telephone and the uses of electricity in metallurgy are some of the subjects considered and explained. The work has a number of illustrations, and an excellent index, and a table of contents.

*Sketches of Jewish Life in the First Century.* By James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. (Hunt & Eaton, New York. 60 cents.) This little book is one of those delightful attempts which modern scholarship is fully qualified to make, to reconstruct on the basis of its general knowledge the actual scenes in the life of New Testament characters. In this case Dr. Strong takes Nicodemus and Gamaliel for his subjects, and treats them much in the manner of that model of all such work, "One Day in the Life of our Lord," by Delitzsch. The Dr. Strong's two essays are distinct, they form together a connected history, of which the one on Nicodemus presents "scenes in the days of our Lord," and that on Gamaliel, "scenes in the times of St. Paul." The combined effect of the two is to give a lifelike impression of Jewish homes and families in New Testament times. — *An Inquiry into the Nature of our Lord's Knowledge as a Man.* (Longmans, Green & Co., New York. 75 cents.) This little volume is a bold and yet cautious inquiry into the limitations of divine omniscience in our Lord by his humanity. It is from the pen of a promising young English theologian, the Rev. W. S. Swayne, M.A. (Oxon.), now lecturer and diocesan preacher in the diocese of Litchfield. The volume is introduced with a learned preface by the Bishop of Salisbury.

*Notes on English Literature.* By Fred Parker Perry. (Boston, Glinn & Co. \$1.25.) The author of this little book is Instructor in English in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and so far as it is a mere check-list of the principal English writers in historical order with notes biographical and bibliographical it is a useful sketch to be put into the hands of beginners in literary study; but when Professor Perry attempts criticism he is not to be trusted. He says: "Tennyson's conscientious labor, synthetic perfection, and artistic perception are counterbalanced by lack of spirit and of true dramatic genius." To say that Tennyson is not a great playwright is not the same as saying that he lacks true dramatic genius; to say that he lacks spirit is to say what his poetry disproves in almost every line. Tennyson is the greatest English poet since Shakespeare and no school-teacher ought to be ignorant of the fact.

*Essays of Leigh Hunt.* Selected and edited by Reginald Brimley Johnson. This is an English edition published by J. M. Dent & Co., London, and sold in New York by Macmillan & Co., who have acquired the whole limited edition of five hundred copies, published for the American market. It is an *édition de luxe* in two 32mo vols., of the Aldine style, published on linen vellum paper, in a style as solid and workmanlike as it is beautiful. The first volume contains Hunt's Essays, and the second his Poems, with a number of supplementary prose writings. The volumes are illustrated with a portrait by S. Lawrence, and several striking, weird-like etchings by Herbert Railton. Two more attractive volumes it would be hard to find. The introduction by the editor meets all the requirements of a biographical-literary sketch.

*Excursions in Art and Letters.* By William Wetmore Story. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.) This is the product of a ripe and richly stored mind working in the field of its choice. There is something fascinating in the thought of such a book, without strictly considering its contents for the moment, and to read it is a delight. The volume contains five essays: I, Michael Angelo; II, Phidias and the Elgin Marbles;

III, the Art of Casting in Plaster by the Ancient Greeks and Romans; IV, a Conversation with Marcus Aurelius; V, Distortions of the English Stage as instanced in "Macbeth." Mr. Story is poet, artist and critic all in one, to a degree that makes him a most interesting essayist, especially on the subjects here chosen.

*The Professor's Letters.* By Theophilus Parsons. (Boston, Roberts Brothers. \$1.00.) If young people could be induced to read this book (but we fear that most of them cannot be) they would find in it much to help them at need. "These letters," says the editor in her preface, "were written many years ago to a young girl, solely for her benefit and instruction." That girl now sends them forth slightly altered and with the addition of a "few pages which, though not written by the professor, were certainly inspired by him." The book is one to read at leisure when one is in the mood to receive its calm, sweet teaching and its pleasant suggestions of peacefulness, thoughtfulness and tender earnestness.

*Under the Trees and Elsewhere.* By Hamilton Wright Mable. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.25.) A handsome little volume indeed, is this, and its contents are charming with their outdoor balminess, so to speak, and their flavor of the woods, the fields and the waters. Twenty-one essays, short, thoughtful, suggestive, charged with a current of freshness, written in the diction of an artist in word-painting and overhung by a misty atmosphere of semi-romantic dreaming. It is a good book for the hammock, the sea side, the mountain-side or anywhere.

*The Change of Attitude toward the Bible.* (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York. 50 cents.) This is the Lecture given by Prof. Joseph Henry Thayer, of Harvard, under the auspices of the Boston Board of the American Institute of Sacred Literature, February 17th, 1890. The lecture is published with some unimportant additions exactly as it was delivered and will correct a good many of the erroneous impressions that were set afloat by unauthorized reporters as to the Lecturer's variation from the accepted theology.

*La Grippe and its Treatment for General Readers.* By Cyrus Edson, M.D., Health Department, City of New York. (D. Appleton & Company, New York. 25 cents.) This useful, timely and sensible health primer is emphatically a Tract for the Times. It is substantially a reprint of Dr. Edson's paper on "The Prevailing Epidemic" in the *North American* of last February, and is republished for general circulation among general readers, to whose requirements and to whose instruction it is excellently well adapted.

*Letters to Farmers' Sons on the Questions of the Day: Being Familiar Talks on Political Economy.* By Henry S. Chase, M.D. (Twentieth Century Publishing Co., New York. 50 cents.) This book is a wild gospel of hate, robbery and class animosity. It is noticed here only to say that it is the last book in the world to be given to the farmer's son or any other man's son, and follows a line of theory which would make property impossible and reduce human society to chaos.

*The Evolution of Marriage and of the Family.* By Charles Letourneau. (Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.25.) The author of this volume starts with the assumption that man must be studied strictly as an animal in line with other animals, and that sexual relations have originated in sexual passion, and are controlled wholly by sexual conditions, and that the family is purely biological in its origin. The book is what these assumptions might be expected to make it.

*Our Common Birds and How to Know Them.* By John B. Grant. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$1.50.) This is a beginner's book, and as such useful both in the choice of examples for illustration (common varieties not too difficult to find) and in accuracy of drawing and description. The only serious defect is the omission of color, which in birds is a matter of very great importance, especially for beginners. The book would be better with more drawings.

From Thomas Whittaker, Bible House we have the second edition of two interesting numbers of the "Science Ladders" series, *The Life's Story of our Earth*, with illustrations and maps and *The Story of Early Man*, illustrated in the same way. Both these manuals are from the competent pen of N. D'Anvers, and together form an interesting whole. They are written in a simple and effective style which makes

the steps of the natural development very plain. (Price, 40 cents per number.)