

Short Studies in Character (Macmillan), by Sophie Bryant, is the second volume in **The Ethical Library** edited by J. H. Muirhead. The author holds that "all ethics and all educational science point back to character, its fundamental structure, its variety of type and its ways of development." She accordingly divides her subject into two parts, the first treating with considerations of character and formative elements and forces, the second with educational problems consequent thereon. The studies are brief, but are valuable for their suggested thought.

The Political Economy of Natural Law (Lee & Shepard). Henry Wood is a firm believer in the eternal reign of law in all life, underlying and working ever under the seeming chaos of conditions. In this volume he seeks to show that evolution is operating in all questions of political and social economy and that we must recognize this before we can understand the subjects in their basic simplicity. His faith in law, of course, makes him sincerely optimistic and idealistic in their best sense of the words. In the twenty-four chapters he gives fresh, stimulating thought.

The Distribution of Wealth (Macmillan). This work on political economy, by Prof. J. R. Commons, deems the great problem of the relations between capital and labor and kindred economic questions must best be studied from the standpoint of investigation of the distribution of wealth rather than its production. The exact definitions of rent, value, cost, price, monopoly, etc. (or senses in which he uses the words), are given, and from this the author proceeds to an analysis of the factors of distribution and of returns, and attempts to deduce laws of rent and profit therefrom. Though a mere outline, the subject is put clearly on a question wherein has been so much verbal juggling.

Civilization During the Middle Ages (Scribner). Prof. George Burton Adams finds in the Dark Ages a most fruitful field for the study of the evolution of man socially and politically. It was a germinating period, a time when great causes and conditions were evolving, forming and refining the Teutonic barbarian to a higher intellectual development to lead the nations on to fuller, truer civilization. The author sees all development of history as a simple continuous process,

and in this he touches upon phases but as links in an unbroken chain. The elements, forces, influences and times of this growth are studied in a philosophic spirit.

The Union Pacific Railway (Briggs). The industrial development of a people Mr. Davis considers a vital element in the historic status of a nation, yet it is a point rather slighted by the historian. The history of the Union Pacific is taken as a phase of this question, and its struggles and manipulations for sixty years are given from its inception to date. The importance of the question is seen in that it involves the settlement of a railroad debt to the government of about \$125,000,000.