

Sainte-Beuve—Portraits of the Eighteenth Century. By C. A. Sainte-Beuve. Putnam's. 2 vols. \$5.00 net.

These two volumes of which the first is translated by Katherine Prescott Wormeley and the second by George Burnham Ives need no other comment than that they contain some of the most delightful of Sainte-Beuve's charming "portraits." The selections are taken from "Causeries du Ludni," the "Portraits de Femmes," and "Portraits Litteraires," and where two or more essays on the same person have appeared in the different series, they are here put together, omitting repetitions. The books are illustrated with portraits, and there is a critical introduction by Edmond Scherer.

Robinson—The Religion of Nature. By E. Kay Robinson McClure, Phillips. 90 cents net.

Mr. Robinson thinks that the greatest modern difficulty is to reconcile the apparent cruelty of natural life with the spirit of Christianity. He endeavors, therefore, in this little volume to show that what is often regarded as cruelty from the human point of view is not so. He thinks that animals do not suffer in the manner in which suffering is understood by the human consciousness and that "pain" as applied to any animal is a misnomer. His point of view is in general agreement with that of Mr. Burroughs, but somewhat more extreme. The essay is an interesting one, but to many persons it will not seem that it is possible to follow the author in all his deductions. Doubtless the lower animals do exist almost wholly by instinct; but in spite of all to be said on the other side many acts of the domestic animals, and even of those not in contact with human beings to any great extent are not to be explained satisfactorily in this manner.