

NEW BOOKS

PRIMITIVE CULTURE IN GREECE. By H. J. Rose. London. Methuen & Co. 1925.

One remembers Mr. Rose as the first Rhodes Scholar to be elected, in the early years of the century, by the province of Quebec. After winning a brilliant degree at Oxford, and subsequently holding a Fellowship, he was appointed Professor of Latin in the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth. While Mr. Rose has given his attention during the last twenty years to various problems in classical research, his main interests have centred about Greek religion and folklore. Recently he has become well and favourably known as the translator and editor of a new edition of the *Roman Questions* of Plutarch, which was reviewed by Professor E. W. Nichols in Vol. V, No. 1, of *The Dalhousie Review*.

This present work displays the unusual combination of a fine and mature scholarship coupled with a simplicity and lucidity of expression whereby even the unlearned and ignorant man may profit from its perusal. It has to do, in the main, with the question of the survival of primitive beliefs and practices both in the world of Homer and in that which we call Classical Greece. It must be as depressing to the ultra-modernist as it is refreshing to the antiquary to find Mr. Rose clearly demonstrating that the civilized world of to-day has, at best, travelled away from the darkness of primitive barbarity but a short step further than had the Greeks of the Age of Pericles. In some respects, the modern Age has retrograded. As the author himself expresses it negatively: "The genuinely primitive lies a great distance back of Hellenic culture."

Mr. Rose's book furnishes the reader with a great deal of curious and recondite knowledge, while it tends to stimulate his imaginative powers and suggest unusual avenues of mental perambulation. It is most interesting to find, e. g., that the origin of the practice of closing the eyes in prayer is to be sought, not in reverence, but in a primitive fear of actually beholding the god during invocation; and that, to the savage mind, a person in a state of anger must weigh more than usual, his rage adding to his weight, like water to drenched clothing. The barbarian leaves the tillage of the fields to the women not, as is commonly supposed, out of pure indolence, but because he regards the female, who is the life-giving element in humanity, as being the proper agent to supply fertility to the soil. Even at the present day, one does not need to travel far, during the spring time in Nova Scotia, to find farmers who, preparatory to the business of sowing the seed, will take the grain from none but a female member of the family.

A. D. FRASER.

JOHN, VISCOUNT MORLEY: An Appreciation, and Some Reminiscences. By John H. Morgan. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston & New York.

Lord Morley, as is well known, forbade the compilation of any biography of himself; but it is not unlikely that, as has happened in several similar cases, the curiosity of his fellowmen as to his character and his career will be given in piecemeal fashion and by degrees what is denied it in a comprehensive and authoritative form. A personality so prominent alike in the world of literature and in that of public life is as a city set on a hill and that cannot be hid. The author of the book before us was an intimate friend of the man he estimates, and is himself a distinguished writer and historian. The essays dealing with Lord Morley's literary work are excellent pieces of criticism, at once acute and appreciative. Most of them were published during Lord Morley's lifetime. Less satisfactory perhaps, certainly less pleasant reading, are the "Reminiscences". The reflections of the writer on the political career of his hero are largely excuses for his failure to live up to those standards of truthfulness, unselfishness and generosity in public life, which, though they are too seldom maintained in their entirety, have yet had no small share in shaping what has been best in the history of nations. The picture drawn of the statesman and author in his old age is, in spite of much vigorous eulogy, extremely depressing. Embittered, querulous, and cynical, the one-time leader of liberal thought seems to have wished the world's progress to have stopped at the exact period when his own career ceased. His conversation is described as brilliant; but if it was so, Mr. Morgan is no Boswell, for in the examples given there is little wit and not much wisdom. In all this there is suggested a moral as well as a mental senile decay, the account of which makes painful reading to those to whom in their youth John Morley's essay *On Compromise* came as a clarion-call to an intellectual life of unflinching devotion to the highest ideals.

E. R.

A DICTIONARY OF MODERN ENGLISH USAGE. By H. W. Fowler. Clarendon Press. Oxford. Humphrey Milford. London. 1926.

This is an excellent work of reference, and should be an exceedingly valuable aid to anyone who is desirous of learning how to use the English language correctly and effectively. All the linguistic and grammatical puzzles that beset inexperienced writers are pointed out, and examples are given of right and wrong usage. Moreover, the author is not pedantic, but allows considerable latitude in regard to many generally accepted rules. Thus in the matter of putting a preposition at the end of a sentence, he says: "Follow no arbitrary rule;—if the unorthodox final preposition that has naturally presented itself sounds comfortable, keep it; if it does not sound comfortable, still keep it if it has compensating vigour, or when among awkward possibilities it is the least awkward." Often the commentaries are quite

amusing; thus under the heading "Hackneyed Phrases" we are reminded that "there are thousands to whose minds the cat cannot effect an entrance unaccompanied by 'harmless necessary'; nay, in the absence of the cat, 'harmless' still brings 'necessary' in its train. King David must surely writhe as often as he hears it told in Sheol what is the latest insignificance that may not be told in Gath. And the witty gentleman who equipped coincidence with her long arm has doubtless suffered even in this life at seeing that arm so mercilessly overworked." Of the French term *mot juste* he says: "It is a pet Literary Critics' word, which readers would like to buy of them as one buys one's neighbour's bantam cock for the sake of hearing its voice no more." This is an entertaining as well as a useful book.

E. R.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD. Gifford Lectures delivered in the University of St. Andrews in the year 1924-25. By Lewis Richard Farnell, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford.

The title of this book sufficiently explains its theme, and in the first chapter are set forth its scope and method. Accepting the view that the stuff of religion is emotional and psychic, and that faith in the being of God is a self-sufficing intuition, or soul perception, the writer urges that the intellect has yet a great contribution to make in classifying and comparing the various attributes which in different religions have been actually ascribed to God. His book is an effort to set forth and to co-ordinate the results of this analysis. Starting with conscious personality as the basis of the divine attributes, he points out that even in its highest and most transcendental effort religion can never escape from anthropomorphism. To a discussion of this and of theriomorphic conceptions of the deity, in the course of which his extensive knowledge not merely of classical mythology but also of the religious systems of ancient Egypt and the East is skilfully employed, the second chapter is mainly devoted. He concludes with the important observation that a religion without a personal God has not been found to be a strong or enduring force.

The third chapter, dealing with polytheism and monotheism, at first sight appears somewhat irrelevant. Yet according as the human mind is conscious of one or of many gods, so the divine attributes are of necessity differentiated and modified. Monotheism tends to exalt God, to make Him remote and terrible, whereas polytheism tends to bring the divine life nearer to man. The bearing of this last on the Christian religion is indicated in the evolution of the doctrine of the Trinity and of Mariolatry.

Proceeding now to a more detailed account of the divine attributes, Dr. Farnell adopts the novel method of classifying them according as they belong to the world of Nature or have regard to the life of man, both public and private. It is from Nature-worship that the divine aspect of loving-kindness sprang; and the importance of the hunting, pastoral, and agricultural periods of man's development is

emphasized as contributing to a clarification of ideas concerning God. In contrast to this, the stage of modern industrialism which at present prevails has in many ways a soul-destroying and even an anti-religious effect.

In the chapter dealing with tribal and national attributes and functions of the Deity, the writer has many pertinent things to say. While tribal religion strengthens the ties of kinship and of the sense of God's active interest in the welfare of His chosen people, it tends also to exclusiveness. With tribal religion appears also the idea of vicarious punishment, and the suggestion is made that our own Christology is not yet entirely delivered from the fetters of group ethics.

The chapter on the political attributes of God as controlling the life of the State is principally noteworthy because of its discussion of the problem of war and religion. The writer concludes that a religion which satisfies our ethical and spiritual ideas, and is yet workable by a State in the present condition of the world, need not discard the old-world concept of a God of righteousness who inspires men at certain crises with the will to war.

In contrast to what has preceded, the chapters on the moral attributes of God—His justice, mercy, holiness, wisdom, power, etc.—are somewhat disappointing. This may be due in part to the writer's forsaking the historical or comparative method for a more philosophic method of investigation, and partly to his being lacking to a certain extent in power of scriptural exegesis. In particular, it were to be desired that more space had been given to God's omniscience and omnipotence. Unsurpassed in his knowledge of comparative religion, the writer does not reach the same high standard as a theologian. His practical denial of any objectivity in the Atonement and of the validity of intercessory prayer, and his advocacy of universalism, are points on which many will join issue with him.

At the same time, even here his comments are of value. His researches present many aspects in the religious experience of mankind which might otherwise be lost sight of, and give abundant stimulus to thought. One of the most admirable features of his book is the manner in which at the end of each chapter he sums up his own conclusions. These alone, together with the arguments on which they are grounded, make his work well worth reading.

C. M. KERR.

ESSAYS IN ETHICS AND RELIGION. By James Seth, M.A., LL. D.
 Edited, with a short memoir, by A. Seth Pringle-Pattison.
 William Blackwood & Sons. Edinburgh and London. 1926.

This memorial volume on James Seth's life and work will be warmly welcomed by all who had the privilege of his friendship, and especially by all his former students. The simple and dignified memoir which his brother supplies recalls to mind the features of a personality singularly attractive in its combination of intellectual acuteness and candour with a suavity and modesty not always to be found in the occupant of a professorial chair. Papers here republished are,

of course, by no means exhaustive of his views on Ethics and Religion, but they suffice to show, even to those who are not familiar with his more important philosophical works, the attitude and the temper with which he approached those problems that were regarded by him as of special importance. The article on "The Alleged Fallacies in Mill's Utilitarianism" is not only of real value as an acute piece of critical analysis, but is indicative of the generosity and open-mindedness with which he always estimated the work of thinkers whose opinions were most alien to his own.

Noticeable among the addresses here published is that on "Christianity and Socialism", treating of the practical and social implications of the Christian creed,—a subject upon which his feelings were strong and deep. Not the least valuable of the essays is that on "Methods of Instruction in Philosophy", which might profitably be studied by both teachers and students. In the Appendix will be found the paper on "Halifax Revisited" which Professor Seth contributed to this *Review* four years ago.

E. R.

THE AUGUSTAN BOOKS OF MODERN POETRY. (The First Twenty-six Numbers): Ernest Benn, Ltd. London.

This series, issued at the low price of sixpence a number, while each number can be obtained separately, is a real boon to such lovers of poetry as cannot well afford to pay a dollar and a half for every slim volume of contemporary verse that is issued from the press. The pamphlet form is not free from objection, but this is the necessary condition of cheapness, and the paper, type and general appearance are all that could be desired. Some of the writers represented are not strictly "modern":—Marvell is included in the list, but one is not disposed to quarrel with the chance to get the cream of his delightful verse so easily. The selection from Blake also is a rare sixpence worth. But it is from recent or present-day poets that most of the series are taken. The names of Rupert Brooke, G. K. Chesterton, W. H. Davies, Robert Bridges, John Drinkwater, Siegfried Sassoon, Rabindranath Tagore, and Hilaire Belloc, will indicate how rich and varied a store of poetry is offered us. Frequently the authors have themselves made the selections, and in some cases verse hitherto unpublished has been included. We have here a splendid opportunity to become familiar with the finest poets of our own time.

E. R.

THE SURFACE-HISTORY OF THE EARTH. By John Joly, Sc.D, F.R.S., Trinity College, Dublin. Oxford University Press. 1925.

As the title implies, the aim of this book is to give an explanation of the development of the surface features of the earth as they appear to-day, and to show the application of the same principles of development to the recurrence of similar earth features at various periods during the progress of geological time. Work of this nature has b

done before, but Dr. Joly's treatment of the subject is a departure from the usually accepted explanation.

The main problems involved are the relation between mountain ranges and ocean basins, the presence of marine sediments in the highest mountains, the source of the compressional forces that are shown in the folded mountains, the tensional forces evidenced in rift valleys, and the cause of the tremendous outpourings of lava especially in past ages. There is also to be explained the periodic invasion of parts of the continents by the ocean, and the gradual withdrawal of these waters as illustrated in the past history of the earth, each occupying millions of years.

The thesis is based upon (1) a basaltic substratum, (2) isostasy, (3) the energy of radio-activity, and (4) tidal effect in molten rock.

In support of the presence of a stratum of basalt underlying the lighter rocks of the continents and forming the floor of the oceans, Dr. Joly is able to adduce strong evidence, and he has the support of some other authorities on rock magmas. This basaltic rock has a specific gravity of about 3, while acidic rocks like granite average about 2.7. Some light is thrown upon the depth to which this substratum extends by the records of the passage of earthquake waves through the rock—perhaps a hundred miles, perhaps two hundred.

The theory of isostasy—Dr. Joly says that it has passed the stage of theory, for it is a fact—supposes that the lighter material of the continents rests upon and is embedded in a denser substratum, somewhat after the manner of an iceberg floating in the ocean. Where plateaus and mountains exist upon the surface, this material of less specific gravity is sunk further into the viscous-solid substratum, serving as the "isostatic compensation." Where an area becomes loaded or weighted, as in troughs of sedimentary accumulation, sinking takes place; and where denudation occurs, the surface rises. Equilibrium is thus maintained in the earth substance.

The source of the enormous forces that have operated and are still at work in changing the earth's surface Dr. Joly finds in radio-active minerals—uranium and thorium. All rocks are feebly radio-active, the acidic ones more radio-active than the basic; all contain small quantities of uranium and thorium. These minerals slowly give off heat as they change towards their end-product lead. Very little of this heat can escape to the surface by conduction through the continental crust, and not much is lost to the oceans; as more heat is generated in the lighter overlying rocks of the continents, heat accumulates in the basaltic substratum. This accumulation through millions of years is sufficient to raise the temperature beyond the point of fusion of the basalt and to provide the latent heat of fusion. The substratum beneath the continents, therefore, becomes liquid, and the expansion of the huge volume of rock develops tensional stresses in the overlying mass sufficient to rupture the ocean floor which has become much thinner through melting, and to cause fractures in the border of the continents. Through fissures thus produced, floods of lava may well up. Beneath the continents and the thinned ocean floor there is now a continuous zone of fluid basaltic magma. Continued accumulation of heat, with small means of relief, would at length bring

disaster to the earth's surface. The factor of tidal effect prevents this evil result.

This fluid substratum would undoubtedly be affected by the lunar pull, and to a less extent by the solar pull. By the effect of the tide set up in the liquid belt, the continental masses and the thinned ocean floor are caused to pass over the zones of accumulated heat. The heat is slowly carried by convection through the oceans, but without causing much rise of temperature in these bodies. Gradually the substratum through this escape of heat cools, and at length it crystallizes into a solid with reduction of volume. The shrinkage of the substratum causes compressive forces to develop in the continental masses, and where places of weakness occur there follows folding of strata, mountain building and overthrusting. The ocean floor has not been fused, and probably only the lower parts of the land compensations, so that the former pushes against the zone of weakness, and the solid land mass serves as a buttress for the folding and fracturing of the weak parts of the earth structure. With the folding of the mountains and later vertical uplift, the cycle is complete.

The highest mountain ranges face the greatest expanse of ocean because of the force exerted around the margin of the solid ocean floor. Lines of weakness where the mountains have risen were long troughs occupied by the sea when the land was at a low level, and into which sediment was brought by the streams. This sediment accumulated upon a slowly subsiding sea bottom in agreement with isostasy, and when the time of compressive stresses came, was forced into mountain folds. In brief, the surface changes of the earth apart from those produced by denudation are the result of the "accession or loss of energy from beneath." Six or more great cycles, beginning with an expansion of the sea and ending with withdrawal and mountain building and uplift, are recorded throughout geological time.

A chapter at the end of the book is devoted to the age of the earth calculated from the sedimentation record, from the amount of sodium chloride in the sea water, and also from radio-activity as shown from pleochroic haloes in black mica. There is an appendix to each chapter treating the matter more technically, and a summary at the end of the book.

The volume is written in a pleasing style, and is a valuable contribution to geological literature,—one with which students of earth history should not fail to be acquainted.

D. S. MCINTOSH.

THE PLAGUE PAMPHLETS OF THOMAS DEKKER. Edited by F. P. Wilson. Clarendon Press. Oxford. 1925.

This edition of the pamphlets attributed to Thomas Dekker, the Elizabethan poet and playwright, will necessarily appeal rather to the literary specialist than to the general public. As the editor states, however, they have some value as presenting a lively picture of the London in which Shakespeare lived. Dekker indeed was as great a lover of London as Charles Lamb was later, and both in his

plays and in his non-dramatic works he is ever ready to sing the praises of the great city. The present collection includes several papers that are only conjecturally attributed to Dekker; some of them are here reprinted for the first time.

E. R.

CATALOGUE OF PICTURES IN THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA.
With an Introduction and Notes by James F. Kenney,
M.A., F.R. Hist. S. Part 1. Published under the direction
of the Keeper of the Records. Ottawa.

This Catalogue, which is in both English and French, is admirably compiled, and has a most attractive appearance. The reproductions of paintings and prints are excellent, and some of them are of no small interest. The sketch of the various methods employed in the making of prints is clear and accurate, and will be found helpful to students.

E. R.

BALLADS AND SONGS OF THE SHANTY-BOY. Collected and edited
by Franz Rickaby. Cambridge. Harvard University Press.
1926.

The "shanty-boy" in the above title is the man who works in the lumber-camp. A golden age of lumbering was, according to the author, from 1870 to 1900—the period during which the great pine-forests of the United States were ruthlessly cut down. The songs sung by these lumberers have been collected and studied with much care, and the present volume, which is well printed and illustrated, is the result. Whether these songs are worth the pains that have been expended on their preservation, may be doubted by some readers. They certainly possess none of the charm that we find in the old English or Scottish ballads, or in the German *Volks-lieder*: indeed it may be questioned whether the "shanty-boys" show any poetic feeling at all in their songs. Perhaps it is only the negro race, among the inhabitants of this continent, that can combine pathos and simplicity in just the measure to give the spirit and the form of the true ballad.

E. R.

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY. A SKETCH OF ITS FIRST FOUR CENTURIES.
By J. Vernon Bartlet, M. A., D. D. Lecturer on Church
History in Mansfield College. Revised Edition. London.
The Religious Tract Society. 1925.

It is a pleasure to read such a book as this, and for many reasons. First to be mentioned is the physical comfort due to the ample and

clear printing. Then there is an easy style and a simple sequence of thought. Again—as one reads—the impression grows that the author is fully acquainted with his subject, and is speaking out of a mind well stored with knowledge and understanding. Indeed for many years past Dr. Vernon Bartlet has been recognized as one of the foremost scholars in the history of the Early Church, and his work is one of the many gifts made by Mansfield College to theological science. The book is short, and bears the unpretentious name of a sketch, but that in no way justifies us in assuming it is intended only for beginners. Sketches such as this are like etchings, whose high qualities are measured in part by the small number of lines with which the effect is attained. The purpose of the author is to lay bare “the religious soul of the history”, and he shows how each changing generation presents its own individuality. He ends his study with Augustine, in whom are found the germs of the coming Catholicism and of the eventual Protestantism. This is a book which will do much to clarify one’s ideas of these four centuries.

J. W. FALCONER.