

NEW BOOKS

BONNET AND SHAWL. An Album. By Philip Guedalla. Hodder and Stoughton. London.

In this book Mr. Guedalla gives us biographical sketches of the wives of some celebrated Victorians, to which he adds fanciful accounts of wives whom he bestows on Henry James, Swinburne, and the Goncourt brothers—these two having one wife between them. The fooling in these last essays is good enough, though Mr. Guedalla shows less skill in parody than might have been expected. In the more serious section he portrays the wives of Carlyle, Gladstone, Thomas Arnold, Disraeli, Tennyson and Lord Palmerston. His best sketch is that of Catherine Gladstone, the poorest that of Mrs. Carlyle. The book is perhaps well named; the Victorian costume, unlike that of the present day, left a good deal of the person unseen. Mr. Guedalla tells us many things about the ladies he writes of, but there is little revelation of real personalities. They are treated, and much commended, as good wives, but there is not any very keen insight into their own inner lives. The book is prettily got up, the style is light, and there is plenty of harmless gossip; if it does not add greatly to the author's literary reputation, it may probably none the less be for a time a "best seller".

E. R.

EUROPEAN ELEGIES. One Hundred Poems chosen and translated from European Literatures in fifty languages. By Watson Kirkconnell. The Graphic Publishers. Ottawa.

Professor Kirkconnell, a Gold Medallist of Queen's University and now at Wesley College, Winnipeg, gives us here a most noteworthy and valuable product of Canadian scholarship. To assuage the bitterness of a personal bereavement, he planned and has carried out a series of one hundred translations of elegiac poems taken from fifty European languages. That this stupendous task should have been completed without any assistance from other scholars, is a sufficient proof of his linguistic and literary ability. But we have here not merely a startling *tour de force*; the book constitutes an important addition to the literature of the civilized world. The poems are arranged so as to correspond to the progressive movements of a mind affected by a deeply tragical experience, which from the first agony of despair passes gradually to a calmer mood of acceptance and resignation. The book thus acquires a certain sort of unity, although the poems which compose it come from the most varied sources, and were often written at times widely apart. Its introduction discusses the principles which should guide the translator of verse: the author rightly urges that not verbal literalness, but an intimate transference of the thought and feeling

of the original should be the essential element. But his own success is due to something more than his adoption of this principle. He is himself a poet, and a master of English versification. The present critic is not able to judge of the accuracy of Professor Kirkconnell's renderings from most of the languages upon which he draws, but the beauty of many of these lyrics in their English dress is great. A comparison of many of the French, German and Italian originals with the translations here given shows that very much, in some cases the whole, of their charm and pathos has been preserved. In particular Leopardi's noble sonnet *L'infinito* is beautifully rendered, as is also the sonnet from Petrarch. Theodor Strom's touching poem beginning *Das aber kann ich nicht ertragen* loses none of its beauty; and if Goethe's *Ueber alle Gipfeln* is not so successfully treated, it is because it is untranslatable. This is a book for which all lovers of poetry should be grateful.

E. R.

EVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT IN CANADA. By William Smith. Introduction by A. G. Doughty. Illustrated by Charles W. Simpson. Paper, 274 pp. Ottawa, 1928.

This, in small compass, is a constitutional history of Canada from Champlain to federation, issued by the National Committee of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. In view of the longer history of the original Canadian provinces, most of the space is given over to the evolution of government there, but brief sketches of the constitutional history of the other provinces are also given. Despite the occasion, which would have tempted many a writer to flights of rhetoric, Mr. Smith has given us a straightforward story, soberly yet graphically told, and with that attention to accuracy and knowledge of source materials which we have learned to expect from him.

If one must quarrel with the author, and this is a reviewer's privilege, the book seems open to criticism as an uncompleted story. Mr. Smith has brought the narrative down to federation, but he has given little emphasis to the factors other than party politics which brought it about. Two and a half pages would scarcely seem a fair proportion of space to so large a subject. Nor does he touch upon the federal constitution. Should he not have stopped with the winning of responsible government, or completed the account of the next great step—federation? Canadian constitutional history has made two great contributions to the art of government, the reconciliation of cabinet government with the government of a dependency, and with federalism. To stop midway between these seems to leave the story in mid air. One other point in the matter of emphasis: not a single reference is made to William Lyon Mackenzie or to the rebellion in Upper Canada. While the rebellion was, no doubt, abortive, it would seem to merit some mention in view of the space given to Bishop Strachan, John Beverley Robinson, and others, whose sole contribution to responsible government lay in the reaction aroused by their abuses of the system of representative government. These criticisms are,

perhaps, unfair in view of the limits of space in which Mr. Smith obviously worked.

The volume is a beautiful product of the printer's art. It is printed in large bold type, with French and English on opposite pages. It is illustrated by Mr. Charles W. Simpson, R. C. A., who has supplied an unusual collection of twenty-five coloured prints of various historic councils and assemblies. The book is a creditable addition to anyone's library. It is to be regretted that it is not bound in something more durable than paper.

ROBERT A. MACKAY.

MORPHEUS: or the Future of Sleep. By D. F. Fraser-Harris, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E. Kegan Paul. London. 1928.

This book is a recent addition to the well-known series "To-day and To-morrow" which is intended to supply brief but suggestive indication of future developments in contemporary civilisation. In the present case Dr. Fraser-Harris has undertaken this task in relation to sleep, his aim being to discuss its nature and causes, and "to forecast the place which will be assigned to sleep in the enlightened community of the future". The book contains a short introduction followed by chapters on "Sleep and Sleeplessness", "The Hygiene of Sleep", "Dreaming", and "The Future of Sleep". Only a brief survey of the range of information brought together in these chapters can be attempted here.

While the chapter on the hygiene of sleep is necessarily of a rather commonplace order (emphasis being laid upon such matters as the adequate ventilation of the bedroom, the sedative effect of hot baths, and the advisability of sleeping on the right side), those devoted to the discussion of sleep and sleeplessness and of dreams contain much interesting reading. Dr. Fraser-Harris points out in some detail the beneficial effects of fatigue, diminution of the supply of blood to the brain, absence of sensory stimulation, and freedom of the mind from worry or other emotional excitements, in producing a condition of sleep. While taking up these matters from a scientific standpoint, he has also the happy knack (so desirable in a book of this kind) of illustrating his statements by means of references to concrete occurrences, such as the phenomena of sleep and fatigue which took place during the retreat from Mons. Another noteworthy feature of the book is the number of literary allusions to sleep which it contains. The author shows, for example, that Shakespeare was acquainted with all the factors recognised by modern science as producing sleep, with the exception of those of a vascular order. These latter, it is pointed out, he could not know, since he died twelve years before his contemporary Harvey made known his discovery of the circulation of the blood.

For the general reader, and those whose chief interest lies in the field of psychology, the chapter on dreams is perhaps the most entertaining in the book. While brief references are made to the Freudian theory and the problems presented by telepathic and prophetic dreams, the greater part of the chapter is devoted to a study of those which

are traceable to sensory stimuli operating during sleep. In this connection Dr. Fraser-Harris reviews some of the classical experiments of Maury, in one of which, for example, the subject dreamt that he was perspiring freely and drinking wine in Italy, as the result of a drop of water being placed upon his forehead. The different kinds of sensation which may give rise to dreams of this kind, and the intermediate mechanism of the dream-formation, are dealt with at some length. This chapter ends with an enquiry into the causes of nightmare, *pavor nocturnus* in children, and sleep-walking.

After reading more than three-quarters of this book, the reader will probably ask himself why the alternative title "The Future of Sleep" has been adopted; and if a criticism of an otherwise attractive volume is to be made, it may well be that a book appearing in a series of this kind contains too many pages of a merely expository character. Those daring visions of future development which are so much in evidence in companion-volumes in the series such as *Daedalus* and *Icarus* are reserved only for the last fifteen pages in the present book. But having held his gifts of prophecy so long in check, the author at length gives free rein to his imagination. In vivid and almost "futurist" fashion he makes the reader hear the mixed cacophony of jazz-orchestras, gramophone records, factory whistles, "damnable iteration" of newsboys, motor sirens, dogs' barking, and pitiless impact of pneumatic drills, which can make our congested urban civilisation hideous during the day and continues with but slight abatement until far into the night. But the time will come when cities will be so planned and constructed that not only hospitals and nursing homes will be protected from this kind of nuisance, but the windows also of private houses will look out on quiet and secluded spots. In the health legislation of the future, as much attention will be given to this matter of adequate sleep as is at present given to food-laws and sanitation. The bye-laws of great cities will contain lists of unnecessary noises, and there will be suitable punishments for those who are guilty of a breach of the peace. It appears, too, that we shall all sleep in special cabinets provided with dust-free and deodorised air; and the nocturnal uproar of the streets will no longer be permitted to violate the child's sacred right to long and peaceful hours of slumber. In this vista of the future there is a place too for the scientists who study the phenomena of sleep. The nature of sleep and dreams will be investigated as never before by physiologists, neurologists, and psychologists; and Dr. Fraser-Harris draws attention to experiments along these lines which have already been carried out in the United States. These are only a few of the developments which may be expected. Whether the prospect in its practical aspects is altogether an alluring one, whether, that is to say, the restrictions to which mankind would have to submit in the great cities would not be more grievous than the lack of sleep they are intended to cure, is a question which the author does not answer. The reader must be left to answer it for himself, in the meantime thanking Dr. Fraser-Harris for a very interesting little volume.

N. J. SYMONS.

THE TOWER. By W. B. Yeats. Macmillan and Company.
London. 1928.

It is not easy to predict to what place Mr. Yeats will be permanently assigned among the poets and dramatists who have written in the English language. That he is one of the most distinguished of the literary men of our day, is certain; and it is equally certain that his genius is typical of much that is of highest value in the spiritual and intellectual life of his country. He can indeed never be to Ireland what Burns has been to Scotland; his outlook is not so wide, nor does he make the same emotional appeal to the common experience of men. But if his mysticism and romantic phantasy shut him off from the mass, yet his voice reaches to all those who can find both beauty and truth in the revelations of the imagination. Mr. Yeats's work varies, of course, in quality and interest, but it is always *poetry*; it never sinks into platitude, verbosity, or mere moralizing; he ever has his singing-ropes about him. In this, his latest, volume of verse he refers somewhat painfully to the growing weight of years; but there are no signs of the dimming of poetic vision or of failing craftsmanship. The tone is indeed sombre; one of the sections is called "Nineteen-Nineteen", and another "Meditations in Time of Civil War", and from these we may discern how the sensitive soul of the poet and lover of his country suffered from the horrors of that fratricidal struggle. Some of the allusions, literary and historical, are obscure, especially to the non-Irish reader, but the verse itself is clear as crystal, and there is in it a firmness and dignity not always to be found in his earlier work. Though Mr. Yeats has been writing and publishing for just forty years, and writes now as though old age were coming on him, we may well hope that this little volume is very far from being his swan-song.

E. R.

THEODORE HOOK AND HIS NOVELS. By Myron F. Brightfield,
Assistant Professor of English in the University of California.
Harvard University Press, 1928. Pp. 372. Frontispiece
and bibliography of Hook's works.

The Preface announces that this work is a Harvard doctoral dissertation, enlarged and rewritten. It is a carefully written and entirely readable work, and much of the information that it contains is not conveniently accessible elsewhere. Professor Brightfield says that "in our own century almost the very name of Theodore Hook has been forgotten." He considers that the attempt to revive his memory is worth the effort. "It is no ordinary man who can in one lifetime be a playwright, a courtier, an editor, a government official, a writer of verse, a novelist, a clubman, and a celebrated wit. . . . It is no ordinary man, moreover, who can know in their most intimate and convivial moments the royalty, the aristocracy, and the literary class of his day. . . . Such a life is the many-sided reflection of an age." The story of his life, the experience he acquired as a writer of plays, an improvisatore,

pamphleteer, editor, and novelist, is set forth in sufficient detail. There is, further, a chapter on Social Life, and a discussion of Hook's novels, and of his importance among novelists. The appendix contains synopses of the novels—nineteen titles being on the list. Hook's unfortunate experience when he was a government official in Mauritius occupies a chapter, and it would appear from the evidence as presented that he was unfairly treated.

His plays "are the work of a bright boy with an excellent memory and very little power of invention". Further, "as an English improvisatore, Theodore Hook stands alone"; and the stories told of him seem to justify this judgment. As a pamphleteer, editor, and journalist he was mainly concerned in helping out the Tories, including George IV., and abusing the Whigs, including Queen Caroline. In the discussion of his experiences when he became a social lion, and of his friends, Hook is defended against the charge that he was a servile and hired jester. "There is, on the contrary, plenty of evidence asserting the direct opposite—that Hook was extremely tender of his dignity, and was indignant when he suspected that he was being imposed upon". Among his friends, Croker comes in for a kind word; "the relation between them was one of deep and honorable friendship".

Professor Brightfield quotes in the introduction Saintsbury's judgment "which implies that Theodore Hook received the 'torch of the novel-procession' from Walter Scott about 1825 and passed it on to Charles Dickens in 1840", and in his concluding chapter he says, "But the position of Hook as a novelist is not a mean one. His name takes on most literary significance in relation to the history of the English novel. Writing in an age of romance, he led the novel back to realism. To realism he made contribution of his own. That he was completely superseded by Dickens, is not a disgraceful fate. It shows that he dug the channel for the current which overwhelmed him. During the period 1825 to 1840, Theodore Hook was, one may contend, the best and most popular novelist. Scott at one end of this period, and Dickens at the other, must of course be omitted."

A reviewer may make two observations. One is that the quintessence of Hook appears best in one of the shortest stories, when he stopped "the pompous old gentleman promenading down the street with 'I beg your pardon, sir, but pray may I ask, are you anybody in particular?'" The other is that the popular prejudice among literary people against doctoral dissertations is frequently unjust.

E. W. NICHOLS.

BRITISH EMIGRATION TO BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, 1783-1837.

By Helen I. Cowan. University of Toronto Studies. 1928.
Pp. 253.

"In the preceding pages attempts have been made to describe the changing attitudes towards emigration taken by the few who were brought into touch with that movement". The attitude was first one of opposition, in most cases, inspired by the belief that a nation's strength lay in its workers, who must be kept at home whatever their

circumstances. Later emigration was encouraged by the Government as a relief for unemployment and distress at home. "Done because we are too menny", like the act of Jude's first-born. Over-population is frequently referred to by Miss Cowan as the cause of distress in Britain during this period; but it is less an explanation than a statement of the problem. Emigration did not bring relief to those remaining at home, we are told; its value was in "the emigrants themselves, living in abundance, comfort and happiness". Who will seek farther for any higher Good?

The work has been well done. Primary material has been used for the most part, of which a list is given at the end. The book is valuable, not merely as an historical record, but as a guide to present problems. One could scarcely fail to be impressed, while reading this, with the way in which social problems recur in only slightly altered form from age to age. Those who have to deal to-day with the problem of British emigration would do well to read this record of the handling of the same problem in a period not unlike the present.

W. RUSSELL MAXWELL.

UNDER THE RED JACK. Privateers of the Maritime Provinces of Canada in the War of 1812. By C. H. J. Snider. Toronto. The Musson Book Company.

In this book we have an excellent account of some little-known but not unimportant episodes in the history of British North America. Traditions of the privateers are still numerous along our sea-coast, but it is well to have this definite and detailed story of their activities. The author writes with a warm admiration for these hardy and courageous seamen, and the narrative of their exploits makes capital reading. So far as one can judge, Mr. Snider has been at pains to verify all his facts, and there is no attempt to hide such as are not creditable to his sea-heroes. If on a calm retrospect of the doings of these men we are disposed to accept Nelson's dictum that "The conduct of privateers is so near piracy that I can only wonder any civilized nation can allow them", yet it is pleasant to learn that no act of brutality was ever proved against our privateersmen; that they had intelligence, bravery and fine seamanship, is indubitable. There are more of exciting adventures and deeds of daring in this volume than would fit out half a dozen historical novels.

E. R.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY. By Peter Sandiford. Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd.; Toronto, 1928; 406 pages.

This is a careful compilation of experimental work done in the field of psychology. The experiments selected have a fairly definite application to learning. Prof. Sandiford makes his position quite clear with his very first words: "At the present time the world of experience can be rather sharply divided into two parts—the world

of science and the world of belief. . . . In the latter are included religion, philosophy, and the parts of psychology which, of necessity, limit themselves to the subjective data of experience. . . . In this book a serious attempt has been made to confine statements to the objective and verifiable data of carefully controlled observations and experiments." And again, in his discussion of memory, he refuses to discuss from the point of view of those who classify persons into visiles, audiles, etc., according to the type of image used in remembering. He says, "Acute and interesting observations will undoubtedly be found; but the treatment is so highly speculative, and so little open to experimental investigation, that we will gladly leave this aspect of the subject to the metaphysicians who revel in introspective orgies of this nature." Speculation or dogma has little place in the book; the "attempt to confine statements to objective and verifiable data of observation and experiment" has been successful.

Prof. Sandiford's chief contribution lies in his adherence to this announced policy; in the valuable collection of data he presents; and in the orderly and logical way in which he has arranged his material. If the book were to be used only as a critical bibliography, it would be of worth to students of educational psychology; its pages are studded with tables and figures elaborating and explaining the results of the experiments quoted. This comment must not be interpreted as meaning that the whole value of the book lies in its report of the work of others;—there is much of the author himself in it, much whose exclusion would be a distinct loss. His introduction is especially valuable to students trying to find a point of view from which to consider the place of psychology in education. The progress of psychology from the days when "psyche" meant "soul" to the time when it is interpreted as "human behaviour" is swiftly sketched, and the relation of educational psychology to pure psychology is pointed out in very few words.

To one convinced that "nurture" is of greater importance than "nature", it seems that physical heredity is emphasized more than is wholly wise, and that social heredity receives but courteous recognition. This point, however, is still somewhat a matter of opinion—and surely an author has a right to advance his own opinion in his own book. Altogether, the book has decided value for the purpose for which it was written. It is a text-book for the use of classes studying educational psychology,—and a good one. The twenty-nine tables and fifty-seven figures scattered through it have been carefully selected and, together with the free use made of articles culled from professional journals, will be a godsend to many men struggling against the limitation of meagre library facilities.

C. WILSON SMITH.

ISLES OF PAISLEY. By Jennie N. Smith. Harold Vinal Ltd.
New York. 1928.

Though Scotland is the place of her birth, Mrs. Smith is a Canadian by adoption, and is at present resident in Nova Scotia. In this, her second, volume of verse she shows herself to possess no small poetic

gift. Her imagination is vivid, her sense of beauty acute, and to directness of vision she adds a boldness and originality of diction which, though not invariably successful, is often both arresting and stimulating. In this latter respect she reminds one somewhat of Emily Dickenson; and, like that New England woman-poet, she is at times too careless of the laws of versification. But if there are crudities and ambiguities in some of her lyrics which make the critical reader feel that she has not yet arrived at the full maturity of her powers, these do not prevent a real enjoyment of her interesting and sometimes charming verse. Much of it is subjective and highly imaginative, but some of her best poems are descriptive of natural scenes. Quite delightful in its quaintness and naïveté is "Down on the Farm, Nova Scotia", which begins:—

There's a little old orchard, gnarly and wide,
 With wide-sweeping branches of bloom;
 Where the neighbourly trees, old-fashionedly clad,
 Gossip the whole of the noon.
 The orchard is laid with a carpet wood-brown,
 And walled by a curtain of green,
 So ecstatic a ceiling—elusive of tone,
 Was never yet thought of or seen.

More characteristic of her usual manner, however, is the following tiny poem:—

Morning dons a misty veil,
 Then pins it with a pearl of dew;
 Her robe a sheer and cloudy trail
 Of elfin weave and fairy hue.
 Her sweet hid face in rosy blush
 Has countless gleams and graces;
 An artless maid! all truth and trust
 In filmy robes and priceless laces.

Mrs. Smith's next volume of verse will be awaited with much interest.

E. R.

FLAKE AND PETAL. By Norman Gregor Guthrie (John Crichton).
 The Musson Book Company, Ltd. Toronto.

Mr. Guthrie's verse is always refined and graceful, showing competent craftsmanship by the skilful use of language and rhythm. At its best it merits warmer praise than this. In "Handel's Largo", "Phantom of May" and "Song of a Bubble", to take examples only from the volume before us, we find poetry of a high order. Here is none of the triviality of thought and indifference to form which have marred so many Canadian lyrics; he gives us genuine ideas and experiences, emotionally coloured, and expressed in clear and often

beautiful language. Such a passage as the following is surely in line with the best tradition of English verse:

If I could see into the depths of that retreating sky
 Limpid as innocence above the plain,
 With its burst blossoms of young clouds on high
 Seeming so still,
 Yet slipping slowly by
 The ambitious elm-top on the neighbour hill
 To ours, swept with the early green
 Of the first grass rejoicing in the sheen
 Of quiet waters dying at our feet:
 And the young trees that reach to shelter thee,
 And the high ground where happy cattle meet
 Under the hawthorn tree!

E. R.

THE MEANING OF SELFHOOD AND FAITH IN IMMORTALITY. By
 Eugene William Lyman. (The Ingersoll Lecture, 1928).
 Harvard University Press, 47 pages, Price \$1.00.

The limits, both in time and in the use of technical language, imposed by a popular lecture must always prove irksome to one who has to deal with such a large subject as Immortality,—especially to one who believes, as does Professor Lyman, that no detached consideration of the problem is profitable, and that we can arrive at faith in Immortality only as the result of penetrating into the whole meaning of life and gaining some unified interpretation of our universe. The enduring nature of the individual self in its relation to the physical world, the rational order of the universe, and the existence of God,—all these Professor Lyman thinks it necessary to prove, before he can be satisfied about Immortality. As a result he can give us in this lecture only a brief statement of his views on each topic, such as is more likely to prove comforting to those who already believe in Immortality than convincing to those who do not. But it is worth while to have the announcement, however summary, of a belief in Immortality from one who has evidently reached his conclusions from a course of reasoning so wide and thorough.

Also, it is not without value to have one more declaration of a belief in Immortality from a qualified philosopher in the United States, where materialism and a complete disbelief in any kind of persistence of the soul is so wide-spread in present-day philosophy. Professor Lyman says, in effect, that to believe in the Immortality of the Soul, we must first believe in a soul that has the capacity of continuance. So we must disbelieve at the outset behaviorists, like Mr. Watson, who tell us that there is no soul or self at all; as well as people like Professor Sellars and Professor Alexander, and indeed all naturalistic philosophers, who say that there is some kind of self, but that it is a mere function of the body, and so must disappear when the body perishes. Professor Lyman finds in the creative and originative

capacities of the self, as exhibited in our control over nature, our art, and indeed our whole civilisation, proof that it belongs to a different kind of reality from our bodies and the physical world in general. Above all, he discovers in the personal memory of the self, that old stumbling-block of naturalistic philosophers, and in its power to draw a train of reasoning from the past to meet the future, convincing evidence that the self is justified when it concludes that it will survive the decease of the body.

Moreover, when we look at the universe as a whole, according to Professor Lyman, we cannot help being persuaded that it is permeated through and through and controlled by a Mind and by a Moral Will; in short, that there is a God. This we infer from our observation of the reign of law and order in the universe, from our belief in the universal and everlasting validity of our values of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, and from our religious consciousness, our sense of personal union with the Supreme Being. It is only when we have become possessed of all these convictions that we can be sure finally that the soul or self will not only have a continuance after death, but will have that kind of valuable, personal continuance which we usually understand by the Immortality of the Soul.

This little lecture of Professor Lyman's, in spite of its brevity, is packed with timely and stimulating thought, and should be read by all who are interested in his great subject.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

WHAT PHILOSOPHY IS. By Harold A. Larrabee. Macy Masius, The Vanguard Press, New York. 200 pages, Price \$2.00.

There was a time when the customary method of teaching boys to swim was to throw them into deep water and let the shock do the rest. Similarly, one of the approved ways of making the introduction to philosophy has been to plunge the student at once into some great philosopher's depths, and trust to his (the student's) natural energy and buoyancy to bring him to the surface again. Perhaps this will always be the ideal way. It will at least give him a profound respect for the subject. Another way has been the text-book—university-lecture method, which usually has the additional incitement of credits and examinations to make it effective.

Mr. Larrabee's book represents a new method, that of luring the general reader into philosophy by setting it out in as simple and lucid and attractive a manner as possible. (Or shall we call it a new appearance of a very old method? For it is now some 2300 years since Plato wrote his earlier dialogues, and Aristotle his *Protrepticus* for exactly the same purpose.) His publishers state frankly that Mr. Larrabee has been stimulated to write by the remarkable success of Dr. Will Durant's *Story of Philosophy*,—and indeed his book forms a very useful supplement to that one. Dr. Durant attracted his readers' interest by describing in vivid language the life history of his picked philosophers, and grafted on to that as much of their philosophy as he could, without over-taxing the interest he had aroused. Mr. Larrabee confines himself to the subject-matter of philosophy, and

proves that that, too, can, by itself, be described in a clear and entertaining fashion.

Nor should his book prove interesting only to a beginner. His view over the whole field of philosophy is exceedingly well-balanced. It should be helpful also to those who have started by the deep-dive method, have come up for the second or third time, and are looking around for a life-preserver. The book may be recommended to all those who have had their interest in philosophy awakened, and should prove very popular.

(On page 130 there is a slip. "Agnosticism" does not come from the Greek "agnosco", meaning "I do not know." "Agnosco" is the Latin verb "I recognize". "Agnosticism" comes from the Greek "agnostos", "unknown".)

A. K. GRIFFIN.

ALL THE RIVERS RUN INTO THE SEA. By Principal Maurice Hutton. Toronto. The Musson Book Company, Limited.

BETWIXT HEAVEN AND CHARING CROSS. By Martin Burrell. Toronto. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited.

These two books are very favourable samples of that "light essay-writing" whose absence has of late been deplored as a defect of our Canadian literature.

Principal Maurice Hutton has long been celebrated for the intermingling of fine scholarship and literary deftness which gives books so great a charm for the readers of our time. One is puzzled a little about his title. "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full" — a bygone generation, more familiar with the Scriptures, would at least have recalled that verse from *Ecclesiastes*. But can the author of this book possibly mean that he feels justified in publishing only because there is still a reading public for any sort of product that may stream from the press? If so, he does himself far less than justice. He has given us a fascinating book of ripe reflection, on the most varied subjects; for example, life in Paris as he saw it fifteen years ago; products and by-products of democracy as he sees them now; the qualities of "the Englishman" as they are always to be seen. A group of papers is concerned with the fall of theology from the commanding position it used to hold, and an argument is set forth with great power in support of that "necessity for religion" of which Dr. Hutton so recently wrote in the pages of this magazine.

Mr. Martin Burrell, too, as the chairman generally says about the speaker at a luncheon, needs no introduction to a Canadian audience. But, unlike the statement so often made through the courtesy of the chairman (or perhaps through his inability to think of anything else to say) the description this time is quite accurate. All who read Canadian literary Reviews at all know the name and work of Mr. Burrell. The present book is made up for the most part of articles which he wrote for *The Ottawa Journal*. And the title is borrowed

from those lines by Francis Thompson in which that melancholy London poet recorded his discovery that even for the saddest souls there

Shall shine the traffic of Jacob's ladder
Pitched betwixt Heaven and Charing Cross.

Mr. Burrell gives no sign of sadness in these papers, and yet it is not the optimism of inexperience—rather that of a tried and tested temper—which shines through his book. He writes about many different kinds of topic, as the writer of *causerie* must: from a new book on Napoleon to the practice of "chain letters", from Lord Acton to Lord Beaverbrook, from the philosophy of tears to the mysteries of golf. They are shorter pieces than Dr. Hutton's, and more concerned with subjects that belong to life on this side of the Atlantic. But there is a like lightness of touch, a like token of unmistakable interest in the higher values of literature, and a like undercurrent of that humour which is always such a saving grace. If any cynic denies that the Essay has yet arisen, with its peculiar literary delights, on Canadian soil, he may be sent—like the sluggard to the ant—to consider these ways of two of our writers, and be wise.

H. L. S.