

THEOSOPHICAL.

The Great World. The Constructive Principle of Nature in Individual Life. By the author of "The Great Psychological Crime." Harmonic Series, Vol. III. Published by the Indo-American Book Co., Chicago. Price, \$2 postpaid.

One of a series of books purporting to emanate from an ancient esoteric order, referred to as "the Great School," but bearing the modern name of "School of Natural Science." Its members "are scattered over the earth, wherever the conditions for the success of their efforts appear to them most favorable;" but it has a headquarters or organic center, from which "each individual member receives his authority," and to which "he must render an account of his labors." One of its many efforts to transmit its knowledge is represented by modern Free Masonry, and both Buddha and Jesus are claimed as initiates of the school. By "natural science" is meant not physical science alone, but the physical, the spiritual, and the mental, all of which are natural.

On the mysteries of this school it is as difficult to pronounce judgment as it is to do so on any other so-called mystical cult. But it may fairly be said that its ethical principles are of the most elevated type and have their source in profound perceptions of human relationships. Unconventional as is the mode of its thought, it can harm no one; while its beneficial possibilities are at the least considerable, and the expression is lucid. The explanation of the phenomenon of death gives an unusually clear idea of the philosophy of the school in that respect. Owing to what would be called its mysticism, one could not speak of this book as rational without risking his reputation for rationality; and yet every glimpse it gives of the underlying philosophy seems like a glimpse of the rational.

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THE DERIVATION OF MAN.

The Physical Bases of Civilization. A Revised Version of "Psychic and Economic Results of Man's Physical Uprightness." By T. W. Heineman. Published by Forbes & Company, Chicago. Price \$1.25.

Mr. Heineman undertakes to trace the upright physical attitude of man, and his higher intelligence, monogamic marriage, the family, the home, the economic dependence of woman, differentiation of the sexes, warfare, primitive groups and hordes, and other physical, mental, moral, economic and rudimentary political conditions, to two small anatomical peculiarities of the original man-animal.

The argument proceeds from the proposition that all higher types of life have been derived or are descended from lower, and that man's origin is no exception to the rule; but the author rejects the word "evolution" as inapplicable to the proc-

ess, and adopts "derivation." He attributes the birthday of the human race to the time when reproduction among quadrumana had developed the big toe in place of a thumb and altered the opening for the spinal column through the skull. Two-footed brutes could not compete with four-footed ones, nor could an animal whose body is back of the center of the base of the skull support its head in other than an upright position without conscious muscular effort. "The modification in the entocuneiform bone and in the position of the foramen magnum," writes the author, "are the physical basis of civilization." Until those changes occurred, "natural selection among sentient creatures was mainly instrumental in securing the survival of the strong, cunning, greedy, fierce and cruel; but from this beginning, as unavoidable consequences of disabilities, perils and infirmities resulting from the erect attitude, there developed in due order the characteristics of man, from the appearance of human intelligence to the present state of civilization.

Mr. Heineman's speculation regarding the origin of species, supplementary to Darwinism, is suggestive of a possible advance in this branch of inquiry.

Before publication, the author submitted a draft of his book to 100 distinguished scientists, of whom 80 responded. Among the latter were Alfred Russel Wallace, who writes of the essays as "ingenious and original;" Cesare Lombroso, who agrees with the thought of the work and says its "demonstrations are complete;" and Frederick Starr, who emphasizes the author's views on the origin of altruism and his conclusion that monogamy preceded polygamy.

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MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

Proceedings of the Providence Conference for Good City Government and the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the National Municipal League. Held November 19, 20, 21, 22, 1907, at Providence. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Editor. Published by the Municipal League, Philadelphia.

No serious student of municipal affairs can dispense with this volume. It is probably the best collection of papers on municipal problems yet published. The scope is comprehensive, and the papers, when not by specialists who have won their spurs, are by observers on the spot.

Three of the papers taken together—those of Prof. Munro, Mr. Allen and Admiral Chadwick—constitute a highly valuable group of special studies. They deal respectively with the three fundamental plans of municipal government now on trial—the Galveston, the Des Moines and the Newport plans.

There is a valuable group also on different phases of municipal taxation. Mr. Easterday writes on the exemption of money and credits,

Allen Ripley Foote on the taxation of public service corporations, Delos F. Wilcox on the general property tax, Professor Merriam on substitutes for the personal property tax in cities, Mr. Sprague on the taxation of savings banks, Frederick N. Judson on the effectiveness of taxation, Mr. Heydecker on the taxation of life insurance, and Mr. Newcomb and Fred'c C. Howe respectively on the taxation of railroads. In this group must also be included the report of the taxation committee, and Lawson Purdy's "Outline of a Model System of State and Local Taxation."

On other subjects the volume contains a thoroughly good review by George C. Sikes of the municipal battle in Chicago, under the excessively optimistic title, for which Mr. Sikes prudently disclaims responsibility, of "How Chicago is Winning Good Government." Mayor Whitlock of Toledo is another contributor, his paper being a discussion of "The Evil Influence of National Parties in Municipal Elections." Under the title of "The Battle for Betterment" Mr. Woodruff, the secretary of the League, continues his painstaking annual review of the municipal movement throughout the country.

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Her little private utopia, like other utopias, was filled with delightful results, independent of processes.—George Elliot, in "Felix Holt."

EVOLUTION AND SOCIALISM.

Evolution, Social and Organic. By Arthur M. Lewis. Published by Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago.

A series of ten lectures by Mr. Lewis, delivered at the Garrick Theatre, Chicago, on natural sciences in their relation to social philosophy. In summarizing the theories of Darwin, Haeckel, Spencer and others, it discloses in a readable way the point of view of "scientific socialism."

PERIODICALS

Poverty and discontent in Russia is the subject of a report by George Kennan in McClure's for May.

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The "Slaughter of the Trees" is Everybody's (New York) contribution for May to the work of awakening Americans to the robbery of their planetary birthright under their very eyes. In the same number Hamlin Garland continues his realistic account of psychical phenomena.

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How little the white man understands the Negro, yet how easy to understand him if we observe him, not as a menial as they do at the South, nor as a curiosity as at the North, but simply as a man, is the impression one gets from Ray Stannard Baker's

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