

STOP PRESS REVIEWS

THE NEW GOD AND OTHER ESSAYS. By RALPH SHIRLEY. William Rider and Son, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.

These remarkable essays have much of the depth and lucidity of Huxley, with a greater power of sustaining the interest of the casual reader. Mr. Shirley has the gift of bringing life into controversies long since dead and buried, of showing their importance to us, of restating them in terms of actuality. Moreover his standpoint is most sane. He is a questioner and critic not obsessed by the microscopic accuracy of the logician, but able to see things with human eyes.

To the metaphysician professed, therefore, he may seem shallow. One may quarrel for instance with his attempted disproof of the theory that the Universe is a single phenomenon. One may assert that without experience of Samadhi it is impossible to understand what is meant by the theory. Mr. Shirley cannot realize that Time and Space are accidental forms of our consciousness, no more essential to it than a harem skirt to the Venus of Milo.

Suppose a cinematograph show observed by a man on earth and a man on the sun (with a devil of a telescope!) at 10.40, and their observations compared. The solar will regard the terrestrial as a prophet, for the latter can see at 10.40 what the former sees at 10.48 or thereabouts. With space it is the same thing. Assume a fourth dimension, and Calcutta may rub streets with Buenos Ayres. The Battle of Waterloo may be merely one name for a phenomenon whose other names are John Brown, saucepan, geometry, etc., etc.

These conceptions are hard to realize intellectually. Mr. Shirley is too sane; has never tortured his mind to the point of grasping such whirlwinds and making them the breath of his nostrils. But one minute in Samadhi, and he would understand the actuality of such imaginations. Not that facts are so discovered; it is the attainment of a point of view.

And were this apex added to the broad pyramid of his common sense, we should have another St. John the Divine, an incarnation of the Eagle Kerub, no

longer as now merely the subtlety of the Serpent and the sharpness of the Scorpion.

LEO.

[We regret that urgency forbids detailed criticism of this admirable volume. We should in particular have liked to argue the "Rite" theory of the Crucifixion. As it is, we can only refer the author to J. M. Robertson's "Pagan Christs."—ED.]

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY. By ISADOR H. CORIAT, M.D. Wm. Rider and Son, Ltd. 5s.

"Stage fright is also a condition of pathological fear." To such a degree of absurdity can specialization bring an unbalanced mind. Fear is only pathological when it has no reasonable basis.

This is enough to show the worthlessness of this ill-written book.

It is amusing to find the author quoting Mrs. Verrall as conclusive proof against any supernormal element in automatic writing, while Mr. Hill quotes the same experiments as conclusive proof for it. But Mr. Hill is a student of science; Dr. Coriat a flatulent gastrologian.

ERIC TAIT.

MAN—KING OF MIND, BODY, AND CIRCUMSTANCE. By JAMES ALLEN. Wm. Rider and Son, Ltd. 1s. net.

The important disclosures of this unpretentious volume mark a new epoch in human thought.

Good is better than evil. Bad habits should be broken. Health is more desirable than disease. Happiness gives more happiness than unhappiness does. Work is more useful than idleness. Selfishness is bad; unselfishness is good. Suffering is common. Dwelling upon one's petty troubles and ailments is a manifestation of weakness of character.

The reviewer, staggered by revelations so overwhelming, can only fall upon his knees and burst into a flood of tears.

But think of the chagrin of Lord Avebury!

M. TUPPER.