The Soul, or Rational Psychology. By EMANUEL SWEDENBORG. Tr. by Frank Sewall. New York, New Church Board of Publ. 8°. $3.

THE original of this work is in Latin, and it remained in manuscript for a century before it was published; and now, after some forty years more, we have a translation of it in English. It is hard to see, however, what useful purpose the book can be made to serve. It is true that the present interest in psychological studies is great, and men engaged in them are glad to receive help from any quarter. But they will not get any help from Swedenborg, owing to the unscientific character of his work. Every one, whether he knows much of Swedenborg or not, has heard of him as a mystic and as the founder of a religious sect. Now, mysticism, as Mill somewhere remarks, consists in attributing outward reality to the creations of our own fancy; and that this is the method of Swedenborg, a few examples of his work will show. He assumes that we possess a lower mind or *animus*, a rational mind or *mens*, and a soul or *anima*, and these are perpetually spoken of by him as if they were distinct entities. Precisely how he does regard them it is impossible to say, for his expression is obscure; but the following passage from the appendix to the present work, and which is taken from another of his treatises, presents his doctrine briefly in his own words: "The first of the organs is the spirituous fluid, or soul, whose office it is to represent the universe, to have intuition of ends, to be conscious, and principally to determine. The next organ under the soul is the mind, whose office it is to understand, to think, and to will. The third in order is the *animus*, whose office it is to conceive, to imagine, and to desire" (p. 357). Besides all these 'organs,' he speaks of something which he calls the 'pure intellect,' his description of which is so obscure that we confess ourselves unable to understand what he means by the term. The translator of the work thinks it is entitled to credit for recognizing the part played by the brain and the body generally in connection with mental phenomena; but, unfortunately for this view, Swedenborg's anatomy and physiology are quite as fantastic as his psychology. Thus, at the very beginning of his book, he undertakes to explain "the successive formation of the blood-vessels from the simple fibre," and he begins as follows: —

"The simplest fibre is the form of forms, or that which forms the other fibres succeeding in order. The simplest fibre by its circumflexion forms a certain perpetually spiral surface, or membrane, which is itself the second, the medullary or nervous fibre of the body, and is simply a little channel constructed from the simplest fibre, but, together with the fluid which permeates it, constituting a fibre. . . . This fibre, when it falls into the provinces of the body, again forms a kind of little gland not unlike the cortical, from which proceeds the bodily fibre, and this forms the little tunic which infolds the arterial vessels" (p. 3). And there is much more of the same sort. Now, those who believe Swedenborg to have been a divinely inspired teacher may perhaps accept such doctrines as these and such methods as their author employs; but to other persons his book will be chiefly interesting as an example of the aberrations of the human intellect.

Childhood: its Care and Culture. By MARY ALLEN WEST. Chicago, Woman's Temp. Publ. Assoc. 8°.

IN estimating the value of such a work as this, the public for which it is intended is a prime consideration. The scientific man will find little in it likely to attract him, and what there is he can find in a better shape elsewhere. But the majority of mankind are not of a scientific turn of mind, and, as they have the practical problem of educating their own children before them, it is both natural and advisable that they should have prepared for them a general treatise on the nature of childhood, answering a want analogous to that satisfied by works on home medicine. The spirit in which such works are written is always a reflex of the movement appealing most strongly to the leaders of culture. It is not difficult to trace in this large volume the influence of new and to a great extent better views upon such questions as the moral training of the young by means of the every-day usages of society, the proper dressing of children, the dangers surrounding them at critical stages in their development, and so on. Some rather objectionable features that are also new have likewise found their way into the work. Chief among these is the early acquaintance of children with the dangers of alcohol, — a topic ridiculously overdrawn. In brief, this handbook aims to put together, in a style apt to attract the uninformed reader, the views of childhood now considered as most satisfactory; taking much from the development known as 'infant psychology,' piecing in somewhat of child-lore and anthropology, and systematizing much of such information as is often found in a magazine like *Babyhood*. In doing this there are many mistakes, some serious and some not; but, on the whole, the work leaves one with the impression that it is more remarkable that it is not less satisfactorily performed than that it is not more so. The chief characteristic that marks off such a treatise from a scientific one, is that the former brings in so much irrelevant matter: it is not false, not uninteresting, but out of place. However, there is undoubtedly a taste for works of this kind, and we ought to be satisfied if they are no worse than this.

Life of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. By his son, EDWARD MINER GALLAUDET. New York, Holt. 12°.

THIS book is an interesting account of a worthy and useful man. It is written with filial reverence and affection, but, so far as we can judge, without undue bias; and the story is well told. Mr. T. H. Gallaudet was the founder of deaf-mute instruction in America, and the principal interest of his biography arises from this fact. Few among the charitable or educational improvements of modern times are more important than that which has enabled persons without the sense of hearing, to communicate with their fellow-men; and, though Mr. Gallaudet was not the inventor of the system, he was the principal agent in introducing it into this country. It was during the second decade of this century that he became interested in the subject, while he was a theological student at Andover, and, at the request of a number of other persons who became interested with him, he abandoned the idea of entering the ministry, and started for London to learn the methods in use in the school for deaf-mutes established there. To his surprise, however, he found that the teaching of deaf-mutes in England was a virtual monopoly in the hands of a certain family, the members of which refused to allow him to learn the system, lest their interest should thereby suffer. After trying for some time in vain to induce them to change their mind, or to obtain any means whatever of learning their system of teaching, he went to Paris, where he readily obtained access to the information he wanted at the Royal School for Deaf-Mutes. Returning as soon as he had qualified himself, he opened the first school of the kind in this country at Hartford, Conn., in 1817, and continued for many years to preside over it as its principal. His duties, however, were somewhat arduous, and his relations with the directors were not always harmonious; and after a while he resigned his position. During the rest of his life he was engaged in various charitable and educational enterprises. He married one of his own deaf-mute pupils, and there is abundant evidence in these pages that she became an excellent wife and mother. His son, the author of this biography, is continuing his father's work, being now the president of the National College for Deaf-Mutes in Washington. During the present year the deaf-mutes of the country will erect a statue of the elder Gallaudet on the grounds of the college at Washington, — a tribute to his memory that is well deserved.

An Explanatory Digest of Professor Fawcett's 'Manual of Political Economy.' By CYRIL A. WATERS. New York, Macmillan. 12°. 70 cents.

THIS little book is intended chiefly for those students who are preparing for examination in Professor Fawcett's work in the English schools and colleges, and for this purpose it seems to be well adapted. It fills some eighty pages, and gives an excellent summary of the original work in clear and intelligible language, the more important doctrines and arguments being given in many cases very nearly in Professor Fawcett's own words. The original work is in many respects one of the best of the shorter treatises on the science, but it contains some doctrines that are not accepted now by the majority of thinkers, that of the wages fund being the most important. Mr. Waters objects occasionally to some of Fawcett's views, and indicates one or two deficiencies in the professor's work; but he says nothing on the subject of the wages fund. Fawcett's