

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

work may be regarded as a briefer presentation of the doctrines taught by Mill, and hence this digest will serve to a certain extent as a summary of Mill's work also.

What Shall we Talk About? New York, T. Nelson & Sons. 16°. \$1.

THIS is one of the old-style educational books, in which some parents or grand-parents entertain a party of children with wise and instructive stories and adventures. The present volume treats in this style a great variety of subjects referring to natural science. Descriptions of animal life, and anecdotes, come in for a large share of the space; but, besides, astronomical and physical phenomena are explained. We fear that some of the subjects treated, as well as the style of the book, are quite beyond the grasp of children as young as those for whom it is intended. The treatise on the physical properties of air on p. 139, to point out one instance, cannot be understood by children. The author neglects throughout the book to stimulate the power of observation, and gives theories instead. Besides, the cursory way in which phenomena having no connection whatever are treated without order and regularity must be rejected from an educational standpoint, as it promotes superficialness.

A Text-Book of Algebra. By W. S. ALDIS. Oxford, Clarendon Pr. 12°. \$1.90.

THE present work is in its general plan similar to that of Professor Chrystol, published in 1886. While containing many of the new methods and conceptions which render the latter work so valuable, Aldis's work is less exhaustive than Chrystol's, and does not depart so far from the ordinary text-books in general use as Chrystol's does. On this account it is better suited to teachers and students familiar with the rudiments of algebra. Indeed, the book is one which should be in the hands of every mathematical teacher in a high school, academy, or college in the country. It is only by the help of such works as the present one that mathematical education can be raised to a higher standard than it at present possesses.

The peculiar excellences of the book are found in the two opening chapters, which together occupy fifty-one pages. The book begins with a thorough discussion of arithmetical ideas. The process of counting leads to the idea of positive integers; thence addition, and its inverse operation subtraction, arise; next come multiplication, and its inverse division. By division we are led to the idea of fractions.

Chapter II. is devoted to algebraic notation. By subtraction we are led to the idea of negative numbers. The laws governing such numbers are fully discussed and carefully illustrated.

At the end of the second chapter is introduced a brief treatment of vector quantities: this is introduced simply to show the student that "algebra is something very much wider in its scope than a mere substitution of letters for numbers to aid in the solution of general arithmetical problems." These words are the author's own.

The remainder of the book differs little from the well-known text-book of Todhunter. The last chapter, on choice, might have been extended with advantage.

The book is marred by clumsy and faulty language. Many of the definitions lack precision, and many terms are introduced without definition. Some words are made to have two inconsistent meanings.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first number of the *Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie* has just been issued. The new journal is edited by J. D. E. Schmeltz, curator of the National Ethnographical Museum at Leyden. It is novel in plan, being exclusively devoted to the discussion of the ethnographic specimens collected among the various tribes and races. The journal will make accessible by illustrations the collections deposited in the various museums of the world. The text will contain papers in French, English, German, and Dutch, according to the choice of the author. The subjects of the papers will be the ethnographical results of expeditions, descriptions of newly discovered ethnographical objects, and studies of

collections. Objects the origin of which is doubtful will be figured and discussed. The plan of the journal includes also the study of prehistoric remains. As the material for ethnographical studies is so widely scattered in private and public collections, the establishment of such a journal must be welcomed by all students of the science of man. In order to make it the centre of such studies, a number of co-editors in various countries contribute to the journal. The first number shows that the journal will be of the greatest value. Three beautiful chromolithographic plates and a number of cuts illustrate the text. The plates show a large collection of New Guinea arrows, to illustrate a paper by Dr. L. Serrurier, in which the various forms of arrows of this large island are ably discussed, and the principal object of which is to show that only a large collection will enable us to determine the typical forms of ethnographical objects, and to draw reliable conclusions. The third plate is devoted to the mandaus, the sword of the Dayak, the manufacture and ornaments of which are described in detail by S. W. Tromp. This paper is illustrated by a series of cuts showing the ornaments and various forms of handles. The rest of the paper is taken up by notes on recent additions to collections, a bibliographical review, and a discussion of objects of doubtful origin. The periodical is to appear bimonthly, and each number will contain about twenty-four pages text in quarto, and three chromolithographs. The journal is published by O. W. M. Trap, Leyden.

— The most interesting feature of the twenty-first report of the trustees of the Peabody Museum is Professor Putnam's report on the purchase of the Serpent Mound in Adams County, O., for which a number of ladies of Boston subscribed a sum of nearly six thousand dollars, and on the steps taken to secure the preservation of the interesting monument. Eight weeks were given to the careful restoration of the great earthwork, erecting a fence about it, so that only persons on foot can enter the enclosure. The land was cleared of brush and briers, and the mound was sown with blue-grass-seed. A road half a mile long was made, extending to a grove of maples in the south-eastern corner of the grounds, in which are two springs. This grove has also been enclosed by a fence. A substantial spring-house of stone has been built, and trees are now being planted along the road. A gravel path has been laid out from the spring to the serpent, and various other improvements have been made. It is highly gratifying that Professor Putnam has succeeded in preserving this remarkable monument, and the liberal action of the subscribers will undoubtedly be a material help to future endeavors to preserve ancient monuments in the United States. Several changes have taken place in the board of trustees of the museum: Col. Theodore Lyman resigned his trusteeship, and Mr. Samuel H. Scudder was elected his successor. George F. Hoar, who resigned the presidency of the American Antiquarian Society, was succeeded by Stephen Salisbury. Professor Putnam became trustee as president of the Boston Society of Natural History. Professor Gray was succeeded by Professor Lovering, president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

— A new thermometer for measuring the temperature of the air has been constructed by R. Assmann. In order to protect it from the influences of radiation and other sources of heat, he inserts the bulb of the thermometer in a metal tube which is open at its lower end. An aspirator is fastened to the tube near the bulb, and a continuous current of air of about seven feet velocity passes the latter. Thus it assumes the true temperature of the air. The tube is made of highly polished nickel-plated brass in order to protect it from radiation. Experiments show that this thermometer gives entire satisfaction. Two instruments, one of which was exposed to the sun in July while the other was shadowed, showed the same temperature. A dry and a wet thermometer being inserted in the tube, it serves as hygrometer in the same way as the ordinary thermometer. Undoubtedly the device is superior to the arrangement of thermometer now in general use.

— Prof. David S. Martin is about to publish the large-scale geological map of the environs of New York City, which he exhibited at the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The object is to furnish a map in which all those important geological features which were not before brought together in one representation, can be clearly seen by an audience or