

Primer of Philosophy. By DR. PAUL CARUS. Chicago, Open Court Pub. Co., 12mo., \$1.

THIS book, notwithstanding its title, is the most elaborate work on general philosophy that Dr. Carus has yet published. The philosophical system that he advocates is in the intellectual sphere what he calls positivistic monism, and in the moral sphere meliorism. By monism he means that "soul and body, * * * are the too inseparable sides of our existence; they are two abstracts from one and the same reality" (p. 23). His monism evidently is the kind that is known as materialistic monism; for he does not believe in the soul as a distinct entity, but says that "a human personality is merely a society of ideas." The main object of this book, however, is to set forth the author's views on the subject of what Kant called *a priori* truths, and to reconcile, if possible, the views of Kant with those of Mill. Dr. Carus holds with Kant that "logical, mathematical principles are universal and necessary;" but on the other hand, he maintains with Mill that all our knowledge comes from experience. The question he has to answer, then, is how universal and necessary truths can be derived from experience, which consists entirely of particular perceptions; and we cannot think that Dr. Carus is any more successful in answering this question than others have been before him. He sees that universal truths cannot be got out of sensuous experience, yet he cannot accept Kant's view that they are known before experience; and he advances the opinion that such truths, or axioms, are "products of rigidly formal reasoning." To this the obvious reply is that there can be no formal reasoning without premises, and that, if the conclusion is to be valid, one of the premises must be universal; and furthermore, the principle of reasoning itself must be universal if the conclusion is to be sound. But while we cannot think that Dr. Carus has solved the problem he has taken in hand, we have been interested in reading his book and have found much in it that is suggestive. It shows throughout the moral earnestness and the desire to be useful that mark all its author's works, and will well repay perusal.

Essays on Rural Hygiene. By GEORGE VIVIAN POORE, M. D., F. R. C. P. London and New York, Longmans, Green, & Co. 321p, 8 vo.

FOR thirteen years honorary secretary and subsequently vice-chairman of the Parkes Museum of Hygiene, Dr. Poore is well qualified as an experienced sanitarian and his word in hygienic matters carries the weight of practical experience. Many of the chapters of the above-named work has been previously published, while others have been delivered as addresses before the University College, London, and before various scientific societies. The book has, however, a perfectly preserved plan and is in no sense a disjointed collection, nor does the former publication deduct from the interest, as unfortunately Dr. Poore's ideas of sanitation are totally at variance with the popular acceptance of that term and are not such as would be given wide publicity. The world has accepted very quickly the call for improved sanitary methods finding the subject, considered as a principle, one readily grasped by minds little trained in the sciences, and at the same time one which appeals very closely indeed to the comfort and health of the home. Unfortunately, however, this fervor of sanitation has opened the path for hundreds of banditti patentees and political highwaymen who have quickly seen and appreciated their opportunity, and who, from the ambush of "science" have rushed out and seized upon the public pocket-book. That the public has made so little resistance and has always so smilingly "held up its hands" is perhaps to its credit in a way, for it thereby exhibits a readiness to co-operate with science and it can not be expected to distinguish between the true and the false. But people like to pay well for public improvements and very probably if offered their choice between the modest and economical means proposed by Dr. Poore, and the criminally expensive processes urged by city boards, would unhesitatingly prefer the latter. We rather like being robbed by gallant knight of the mountains with bright colored scarfs and ornamental trappings. We can talk about it afterwards, boast of it in fact, and the more we have lost the prouder we are.

FOSSIL RESINS.

This book is the result of an attempt to collect the scattered notices of fossil resins, exclusive of those on amber. The work is of interest also on account of descriptions given of the insects found embedded in these long-preserved exudations from early vegetation.

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