

been done in appreciation of the life-long sacrifice and assiduity of James Branch Cabell to creative literature." What could be more ridiculous? The neglect of Cabell is a chapter that closed at least half a dozen years ago. His name is known today by every civilized American, and he is probably read and admired as widely as any other American author of his dignity. Even if he were genuinely neglected, I doubt seriously that the publication of such amateurish and trashy compilations as this one would help him in the slightest. I point, for example, to the contribution of Mr. Christopher Morley—a piece reflecting the manners of a head steward in the Cunard and the critical sense of a lecturer on English in a fashionable finishing school. Such drivel can do no possible service to Cabell. It can only make one marvel that persons professing to admire him should be so lacking in the elements of decent taste.

### *Brief Notices*

THE HYMN AS LITERATURE, by Jeremiah Bascom Reeves, Ph.D. New York: *The Century Company*.

DR. REEVES labors with great diligence to justify his title, but without success. He proves that there are a few hymns in English, such as "Crossing the Bar" and Kipling's "Recessional" that are very fair poetry throughout, and that there are a few others, such as Newman's "Lead, Kindly Light," that contain beautiful lines, but he also offers massive if unwilling evidence that the great majority in current favor are doggerel and drivel. Some of the most popular, indeed, have no more poetry in them, and no more spirit of genuine devotion, than so many

college yells. Dr. Reeves professes English at Westminster College, wherever that may be. He is a dull writer.

THE PRACTISE AND THEORY OF INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGY, by Alfred Adler; translated by P. Radin, Ph.D. New York: *Harcourt, Brace and Company*.

Adler, like Freud, writes in a tortured and occult manner, and is consequently very hard to read. There are vast stretches in this book that leave me aching with weariness. But there is also an excellent short chapter on the psychology of children, differentiating very plausibly between the mental attitudes of first children and their juniors, and there is an extremely acute discussion of the motives which move the prostitute.

INTERIOR DECORATION, by Amy L. Rolfe. New York: *The MacMillan Company*.

An extremely elemental and often superficial treatment of a subject that is now dealt with in many books, most of them better than this one.

CREOLE SKETCHES, by Lafcadio Hearn. Boston: *The Houghton Mifflin Company*.

Forty-five pieces rescued from the old files of the New Orleans *Item*, some of them in Hearn's best early manner, but others very trivial. They are illustrated with rude woodcuts made by Hearn himself.

YOUR WASHINGTON AND MINE, by Louise Payson Latimer. New York: *Charles Scribner's Sons*.

Despite a banal title, this is really a very interesting and useful book. It tells all that is worth knowing about the history and present state of Washington the city, with its environs, leaving out the depraved doings of its present inhabitants. The illustrations are well selected and well printed.

## THE AMERICAN MERCURY AUTHORS

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