

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

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and Wesley. At the end there is a chapter on the minor prophets who have arisen in America, and another on the leaderless religions. The book shows a wide range of reading, and is instructive and interesting. The author, theologically speaking, is a Liberal of the most advanced wing. He prints a brief but useful bibliography and a good index.

HISTORY

THE WAY OF THE GREEKS.

By F. R. Earp. *The Oxford University Press*
\$3 8½ x 5½; 223 pp. New York

This is an excellent book. Indeed, it is difficult to think of any other elementary study of the life of ancient Greece that is as comprehensive and as maturely and effectively written. Mr. Earp has achieved a model of popular historical writing. Some of the chapter titles will give a good idea of the scope of his book: "The Tribal Nature of Greek Morality," "Religion," "Sin," "The Relation of Greece to the Savage," "Language," and "Emotion in Art and Literature." Unfortunately, an index is lacking.

A HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

By P. M. Ashburn. *The Houghton Mifflin Company*
\$5 9 x 5½; 448 pp. Boston

The Army Medical Corps began with the Revolution, in which 1200 surgeons saw service, only 100 of whom had medical degrees. There was a great deal of sickness in the Continental Army, and the surgeons in the field frequently differed about the treatment of it, so that there were public rows, and Congress had to take a hand. Of the four Directors General between 1775 and 1783, one was tried and two others dismissed. Between the end of the Revolution and the War of 1812 the Medical Corps ceased to exist, and even during the latter war it attained to little dignity. As it stands today it goes back to 1818, when Congress created the office of Surgeon General. Its history since has done it high credit. Not only have its members served with diligence and sacrifice in the field; they have also managed to get through a great deal of laboratory work. The recent history of medicine, indeed, is brilliant with the names of Army surgeons—Reed, Gorgas, Billings, and many another. Col. Ashburn tells the story in detail, and has made a very interesting book. He does not overlook amusing oddities: for example, the fact that, in the Army, it was for long believed that the Surgeon General's Office was a close Catholic corporation! His volume is well documented and has a good index. It is the first attempt to write a history of the Army Medical Corps since 1873.

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FINLAND. *The Republic Farthest North.*

By Eugene Van Cleef. *The Ohio State University Press*
\$2.50 8¾ x 5½; 220 pp. Columbus, O.

This is a rapid, but heavily documented and interestingly written survey of the geography, history and culture of one of the richest countries of Europe. It became an independent democratic state only in 1917, with the fall of Czar Nicholas II. In discussing the culture of the land Dr. Cleef, who is professor of geography at the Ohio State University, is guided by the principle that "the literature, music, and art harmonize with nature's northern moods and point to the power of the physical environment to endow the temperament of the people." Toward the end of the book there is an excellent chapter on the Finns in America. Before the enactment of the Immigration Law nearly 90% of Finnish immigration was to this country, but now the tide has turned to Canada. The Finns in the United States usually settle down in those sections where the climate most closely resembles that of the home land. Most of them are thus to be found in Michigan and Minnesota, with a few in Massachusetts and New York. According to the Census of 1920 there were nearly 275,000 of them in the United States, including native and foreign born. The Finns detest the city, and have a passion for being independent farmers. They are, on the whole, an industrious and cleanly people, but have a strange fear of fresh air. The bath is their cure-all. They firmly believe that "disease is not communicable and that it is incurable unless the steam bath is effective in combating it." They are "omnivorous readers" and "one may count twenty-nine periodical publications [among them], including four year books. . . . Nearly 25% of the Finns in America belong to the Socialist party." There is an excellent map, and also a good index and a brief bibliography.

A CHILD'S STORY OF CIVILIZATION.

By Stephen King-Hall. *William Morrow & Company*
\$3 8¾ x 5½; 348 pp. New York

This is sort of Wells' "Outline of History" simplified so as to be comprehensible to children of about the age of twelve. Unfortunately, there the analogy between the two books stops. Mr. King-Hall is extremely reckless with his facts. Here, for example, are three statements picked at random: (a) "He [Jesus] was killed at Jerusalem by some Jews who hated him;" (b) "The British government [in the Summer of 1914] tried to make all the governments talk things over quickly, . . . and no one would listen to [it];" (c) "They [the British] died to prevent the Germans conquering the British Empire and becoming the masters of all the world."

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