

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from page viii

upon medieval history. His three principal works, on the Inquisition, on sacerdotal celibacy, and on auricular confession and indulgences, are still standard authorities. Catholic critics have attacked them with great vigor, but like Andrew D. White's "History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom," they remain substantially unshaken. The present life of Lea is the first to be printed. It is without literary graces and there is little attempt at criticism, but the facts are set forth in an orderly manner, and so the work has some interest. At the end is an apparently complete bibliography of Lea's voluminous writings.

THE YORK ROAD.

By *Lizette Woodworth Reese*. Farrar & Rinehart
\$3 8 x 5½; 292 pp. New York

Miss Reese here continues the reminiscences which she began in "A Victorian Village". She discourses, with the same quiet distinction and charm, upon "Fallen Idols," the lost heroines of fiction of the Victorian age; upon the famous bitter home-brews and herbs that were supposed to cure everything from toothache to the vapors; upon the scissors-grinder, the umbrella-mender, the bar'lman, the white-washer, the old Negro fortune-teller, and many another colorful character who travelled the York road in her native Baltimore in her youth. Three of the chapters, "Cornelia's Birthday," "Sanctuary," and "Forgiveness," are in reality short stories, describing, with a minute precision, as many homely tragedies in the suburban village of Waverly. Each chapter, as in the companion volume, is prefaced by a poem. There are decorations by Richard Bennett.

EDMUND BURKE. *A Biography*.

By *Robert H. Murray*. The Oxford University Press
\$4.75 9 x 5½; 423 pp. New York

The standard biography of Burke is still the one written by Thomas Macknight in three volumes, the last of which was published in 1860. But the present one-volume study by the Rev. Dr. Murray has its uses. It contains some fresh material, and it is compactly and clearly written. It suffers somewhat on the critical side from too lavish praise. To say of Burke that "no one did so much as he to bring about the consciousness of history which had been so lacking in all the abstract speculations of the Eighteenth Century" and that "as Einstein is the discoverer of the truth of physical relativity, so Burke is the discoverer of the truth of political relativity"—to say these things is to be guilty of gross and obvious exaggerations. There is a frontispiece portrait and also an index.

THE SCIENCES

THE INSECT MENACE.

By *L. O. Howard*. The Century Company
\$3.50 8¼ x 5¾; 347 pp. New York

Dr. Howard, who lately retired as chief entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, believes that the insects may some day drive the mammals from the earth. There are 2,000,000 species of them, and they are so well adapted to terrestrial life that they have remained substantially unchanged for 400,000 years. The war upon them is full of difficulties, and despite some successes, is not going very well. Dr. Howard describes three of the more recent battles at length—those against the Western grasshopper, the Mexican cotton boll-weevil, and the Mediterranean fruit-fly. All have been impeded by the stupidity of farmers, who still refuse to follow sound scientific advice. Of late some progress has been made by setting one species of insect to preying upon another. Dr. Howard pays eloquent tribute to some forgotten heroes of the long war—notably W. F. Fiske and Frederick Muir. There are many illustrations, and an index.

SNAKES OF THE WORLD.

By *Raymond L. Ditmars*. The Macmillan Company
\$6 10½ x 7¼; 292 pp. New York

Mr. Ditmars has put in many years studying snakes, and probably knows more about them, practically speaking, than any other American. The present volume, which is addressed to the general reader, is full of curious and interesting stuff. "Poisonous snakes," says the author, "are no more numerous anywhere in the world than in some of the mountainous portions of New York and Pennsylvania, with their rattlesnakes and copperheads—and possibly again the coastal swamps of Georgia and South Carolina, where the water moccasin abounds." Altogether, slightly more than 2000 species of snakes are known to naturalists, of which no more than one-eighth are venomous, and of this one-eighth only 60% are really dangerous to man. The eighty-four excellent plates are all grouped at the end. There is a good index. The author is curator of mammals and reptiles at the New York Zoölogical Park.

THE UNIVERSE IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN PHYSICS.

By *Max Planck*. George Allen & Unwin
4s.6d. 7¼ x 4¾; 110 pp. London

The substance of this little book comes from two pamphlets by Planck, "Das Weltbild der neuen

Continued on page x

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from page ix

Physik" and "Physikalische Gesetzlichkeit im Lichte neuerer Forschung." The translation is by W. H. Johnston. There is little comfort in the text for those American reconcilers of science and religion who bring forward the aberrations of Planck's quanta as proof that the universe is ruled by impulse rather than by law. "It is essential," says Planck, "for the healthy development of physics that among the postulates of this science we reckon, not merely the existence of law in general, but also the strictly causal character of that law. . . . I consider it necessary to hold that the goal of investigation has not been reached until each instance of a statistical law has been analyzed into one or more dynamic laws. . . . All studies dealing with the behavior of the human mind are equally compelled to assume the existence of strict causality."

RELIGION

WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC & ALCHEMY.

By Grilhot de Givry. The Houghton Mifflin Company
\$10 11¼ x 8¾; 395 pp. Boston

M. de Givry is disposed to take quite seriously that belief in magic which was almost universal in the Middle Ages, and strongly colored Christian theology. He describes the dawn of skepticism in the Eighteenth Century as "brutal", and seems to have no doubt about the authenticity of most of the records he makes use of. His chief interest, however, is not in the evidences of demonism, but in its iconography. He presents no less than 378 reproductions of magical drawings, sculptures and documents, ten of them in color. They are chosen from a wide range of sources, many of them ordinarily inaccessible. They include drawings by Rembrandt and Leonardo da Vinci, and are beautifully printed. Altogether, the book, which is competently translated by J. Courtenay Locke, is of unusual interest. No bibliography is presented, but there is a good index.

THE ETHICAL RELIGION OF ZOROASTER.

By Miles Menander Dawson.

The Macmillan Company
\$2.25 7½ x 5; 271 pp. New York

Dr. Dawson says that Zoroaster, the great prophet of the ancient Persians, was "the discoverer, or at least the uncoverer, of individual morals." A full century or more before the Jews began to formulate their moral code in the Babylonian captivity, and even longer before Socrates, Confucius and Buddha essayed to reduce ethics to something approaching a

science, Zoroaster's ideas were already widely known. Dr. Dawson presents them as far as possible in the prophet's own words. They are sorted out according to subject, beginning with the nature and attributes of Ahura Mazda, the chief Zoroastrian god, and proceeding to public duties and private rights. The book is well planned, and will be useful to students of ethics. Unfortunately, it lacks an index.

"YES, BUT —" — *The Bankruptcy of Apologetics.*
By Willard L. Sperry. Harper & Brothers

\$2 7¾ x 5¼; 185 pp. New York

Dr. Sperry, who is dean of the Harvard Theological School, thinks that all Christian apologetics is unsound, because it is based on "the false assumption that it is possible to love Christianity better than truth. The assumption is false, because what is so loved cannot be a religion." Jesus gave us basic principles, but "He did not give us rules sufficient to cover all the permutations and combinations of honest perplexity." It is particularly useless to try to square the science of the Bible with present-day science. Religion and science, says Dr. Sperry, have little to do with each other anyway. The first deals with matters of faith, of human values; the second is concerned with objective facts. There is no index.

HISTORY

THE UNKNOWN WAR.

By Winston S. Churchill. Charles Scribner's Sons
\$5 9 x 6½; 396 pp. New York

Here Mr. Churchill deals with the struggle upon the Eastern Front during the World War. He thinks that next to the fighting in France and Flanders, it was "incomparably the greatest war in history." He is concerned mainly with the military aspects of the conflict, and discusses them with great detail. He is still of the opinion that the years 1914-1918 were glorious ones for human history, that the Allies, especially England, were absolutely in the right, and that the Central Powers were solely to blame for the butchery. He is especially severe in his comments on the Austro-Hungarian diplomats. Of Count Berchtold, the foreign minister, he says: "He was one of the smallest men who ever held a great position. . . . He is the epitome of this age when the affairs of Brobdingnag are managed by Lilliputians." Mr. Churchill has nice things to say about Czar Nicholas II. He deplores the failures of such "great men of action" as Kerensky and Kornilov, and he looks upon the Bolsheviks as "unnatural spirits." There are many illustrations, maps and diagrams, and an index.

Continued on page xii