

## 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.

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