

tion of ancient criticisms that is valuable to the curious seeker after knowledge that may be attained without the trouble of personal research into the musty records of the past. Matter also, which has not previously appeared in English translations of Latin writers is combined with the able editing of the opinions of celebrated philosophers, critics and historians. Quotations are made from the controversy between Celsus and Origen, and a review is given of the Sybylline books, Neo-Platonism, Mohammedanism and the schools of Greece.

Of the latter the author says: "All that is of modern growth harks back to Athens, where the foundation principles were thought out, lived and established." And as an instance of this harking back he quotes the system of Henry George, giving a fine outline of "Progress and Poverty," with some telling illustrations of the practical value of its applied philosophy. Yet this proposition was not first voiced by Henry George, though, as Mr. Gerretson says, he was not probably aware of this fact.

In 1762 Jean Jacques Rousseau, a Frenchman, then residing at Geneva, wrote a little book, titled "The Social Contract," which palpitates with social energy from cover to cover. . . . It was from this little book that Thomas Jefferson drew much of the splendid social doctrine contained in our Declaration of Independence. . . . Rousseau touches the subject of individual ownership of the land in this energetic and characteristic manner: "The first man who, having inclosed a plot of ground, proceeded to say—this belongs to me—and found other men simple enough to believe him, was the real founder of civil society. What crimes, what wars, what murders, what miseries and what horrors he would have saved humanity, who, grabbing up the posts and filling up the ditches, would have cried out to his fellow men: Do not listen to this imposter; you are lost if you forget that the fruits are to all and that the land belongs to no one."

Mr. Gerretson goes on to say that had this proposition been incorporated in the Constitution of our Republic "we should not now be face to face with monstrous wealth, centralized in the possession of a few, and on the other hand, abject poverty and destitution generally and widely diffused." And he adds that "Thomas Jefferson was alive to this question in his day of usefulness and power and advocated the proposition that the ultimate title to the land should be retained by the Government, and the right of use and occupation only should be transferred to the individual citizen."

From these modern instances of the "harking back" to the wisdom of the ancients, Mr. Gerretson skips to an interesting chapter on "Parallels" in religious history, which shows the unity of human thought and desire in spiritual ideals, whether or not the ideal is actually personified. The dates and authorship of the Gospels are spec-

ulatively drawn from the sources familiar to students of the Higher Criticism, but these do not specially affect the living principle which throbs at the heart of Christianity.

The last chapter of "Primitive Christianity" presents the subject of "Dualism," from the standpoint of ancient and modern writers, closing with the always interesting views of Henri Bergson:

Mind and matter have a common ancestry. Life is a tendency to act on inert matter. Evolution is not affected by external and extraneous influences; it is due to an internal and psychological principle inherent in living organisms. This principle is dominant, transcendent and creative. . . . The doctrine of the "Powers of Darkness," characteristic of theology and Christian ethics, inherited from Mazdeism, needs no consideration in this age of enlightenment. We know of no such powers. Darkness is but the absence of light, the natural condition of space when not illuminated by radiant suns. . . . I do not seek to detract from the mission and influence of the Church. It has been built up by sacrifices and nurtured for centuries by the best thoughts and emotions we possess. It has been adorned by the highest beauty of art, and her greatest work is yet to be done. This will come when she shall have turned her back on the mysticism of her youth and given attention to moral and intellectual work.

A. L. M.



## TWO CHILD WELFARE BOOKS.

**The Child in the City:** Papers by Various Authors. Edited by Sophonisba P. Breckinridge. Published by the Department of Social Investigation of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. 1912.

**Child Labor in City Streets.** By Edward N. Clopper. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.25 net.

Do you remember, when you attended the marvelous Child Welfare Exhibit in Chicago last year, how you rapturously spent all your time in the big hall with the children, though you knew wise grown-ups were speaking in the Conference Rooms? Your choice was shrewd as well as happy. No one could revive for you that joyous presence of the children, while the Conference Addresses are now published, fifty-eight of them, under the editorship of Sophonisba P. Breckinridge.

Under such general headings as Personal Service, Physical Care, The School and the Child, The Working Child, are papers by the workers and thinkers for children. They have much information to offer, good counsel for parents and teachers and everybody. And not counsel only. Somehow, in this bulging volume, whose index helps it to be the useful field-glass it must prove for the social worker,—here somehow has been caught and confined the spirit which animated this great object-lesson that youth and age enjoyed and learned together.



In this child welfare movement, one class of

children have been almost forgotten. Florence Kelley spoke about it in Conference, and Mr. Clopper, who is secretary of the National Child Labor Committee for the Mississippi Valley, has written a very able little book on the subject,—the street-working child. The United States in all their laws and agitation for laws against child labor have ignored the evils attendant upon the work of children as newsboys, messengers, boot-blacks and venders.

Street-work is a blind-alley in the progress toward any future adult employment, and its irregularity cultivates a distaste for future steady work. Physically, the excessive occasional fatigue, night work and exposure in all weather, lead to the use of stimulants and open the way to disease. While morally, deterioration into delinquency and criminality is common and quick. So the author asserts, and his evidence is ample. But we need no proofs. Street-work by children is all wrong, and everybody with eyes in his head and a heart in his chest knows it.

For remedy the author proposes legislative regulation to the ultimate goal of prohibition, and tells how England and other nations abroad have passed regulative laws, and how Wisconsin is a fit model for our other States in America. A bibliography and index make of the volume a usable little hand-book for the social worker. Were philanthropy only as logical as she is methodical, the world would wag more wisely onward.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.



## COCKNEY CHILDREN.

**Gutter-Babies.** By Dorothea Slade. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1912. Price, \$1.25 net.

Here is a curious book. A rhetoric teacher would mark it: "Dialogue excellent. Description a failure. Turn into dramatic form for next exercise."

London slum children, big and tiny, have opened their hearts to the author, who has spent years among them. Of her sympathy with those forlorn and funny babies, the reader of these tragic and true little sketches is fully persuaded. All this the dialogue discloses—dialogue that cleverness must have reported, surely did not invent.

But thought is concealed and feeling misrepresented by the author's interposed narrative. Lizzie and Johnnie and Blanchie live before us while they speak, and die into puppets when their author friend speaks of them. Little waif Mary is being taken from the author's temporary care to an orphan asylum:

She did not go without some reluctance, "I want me brothers bad," she said wistfully, "and I suppose there's lots of children there to play with, but I 'opes they'll give me me bellyful to eat; I shouldn't 'arf miss it now."

So she went out of our life, and Johnny said it was better so. "'Er weren't no good," he said; "too much of 'er mother in 'er fer me." And then, with a kindly wish to comfort me, he added, "'Yer little Johnny loves yer still."

But among the numerous instructive accidents and illuminating observations of Gutter experience, I made a mental note of this important fragment of science. A Gutter-baby is not a domestic pet, and when caught deteriorates rapidly in the process of civilization.

The pictures of children in action drawn by Lady Stanley charmingly illuminate both fact and fancy of this unusual book.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.



## MARRIAGE, CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL.

**Marriage, Considered from Legal and Ecclesiastical Viewpoints.** By Lewis Stockton. Published by Huebner-Bleistein Patents Co., Buffalo, N. Y. 1912.

The Ne Temere decree of the Roman Catholic Church (which took effect in all parts of the United States in 1908 and which pronounced invalid without exception all subsequent marriages between Roman Catholics and non-Roman Catholics before ministers and State officials) is the point of departure for this scrutiny of marriage as a legal and ecclesiastical institution. Succinctly and with many citations of authority is given a history of the status of marriage before and after the Reformation. A statement of the ecclesiastical intention of the Ne Temere decree and of some of its probable effects is followed by brief canonical criticism and a summary of the common law of marriage in the United States, with some suggestions for legislation. Appendices contain the texts of documents and citations of cases.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.



## ADDRESSES ON DIRECT LEGISLATION.

**The Initiative, Referendum and Recall.** Edited by William Bennett Munro. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.50 net.

The pros and cons of Direct Legislation are set down in a collection of essays published under the auspices of the National Municipal League. The introduction by the editor, William B. Munro, who is Assistant Professor of Government at Harvard, states and analyzes at some length the points at issue. The body of the book contains fourteen papers, largely reprints, by public men who have taken prominent part in the recent discussion of the question. Woodrow Wilson, Lewis J. Johnson and Jonathan Bourne, Jr., are among the contributors. Three chapters debate the experience of Oregon, and four are de-