

The press also in its uncontrolled sensationalism is responsible for great wrongs. "Sensational Journalism and the Law" deals with this question. The thirst for sensation has led the journals into the unforgivable attitude of presuming a man's guilt before his trial; and the public's passive acceptance of this attitude has done incalculable harm in the carriage of justice.

As for the author's remedies—his cure for "trial by newspaper" looks dangerously toward press censorship; while his advocacy of allowing more freedom to the judge in charging the jury seems not quite to agree with his high opinion of what the jury is capable of, nor does it agree with the outcry against the judges who recently have taken liberties in that direction. He fails to consider the innate reluctance to find for the death penalty as one of the acknowledged reasons for jury dodging. On the whole Mr. Alger shows the problem admirably. But with a true lawyer's failing he counts the law a more powerful influence than it really is, for wrong or right.

What is, perhaps, the gem of the collection, is not about the law at all, but on "Generosity and Corruption." "The substitution of generosity for justice" is a phrase and an idea to ponder. "One of the effects of the generosity of the unjust, which deserves more consideration than it gets, is this: it closes the mouths of critics whose voices might otherwise be heard in effectual protest against public wrongs or defects which cry for change in economic conditions." The effect of "the generosity of the unjust" is traced in politics where the "legislative burglar with a big heart" is confessedly the hardest to overcome; and in college, where "we can not afford to have the traditions of our colleges become largely the traditions of suspiciously rich men who made money and built buildings."

Other essays are "The Literature of Exposure" and "Some Equivocal Rights of Labor." Taken for all in all, this is a book worth urging people to open. If opened it will certainly be read. The style is delightful, the citation of cases most interesting and apt, the argument stirring.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

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"IN THE FIRE OF THE HEART."

In the Fire of the Heart. By Ralph Waldo Trine. Published by McClure, Phillips & Co., New York. 1906. Price \$1.00 net.

Ralph Waldo Trine is the author of "In Tune with the Infinite," a book which is very popular with those inclined to mental science and with the religious world. The danger, both of mental and Christian science, is that their devotees are apt to say, "We have found the way to Heaven ourselves, and the rest of the world can go to Hell; if they don't want to, the better way is equally open to them."

But all persons live upon the physical plane, and most persons live entirely upon the physical plane, and do not even know that there is any other; therefore, in order that the mental and the spiritual should be right, it is necessary, at least for them, that the physical should first be right.

It is of importance, therefore, that Mr. Trine and

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—*The Public.*

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DEFERENCE TO THE BIG STICK.

others like him are turning their attention to the economic condition, perceiving that peace can neither be perfect nor permanent until it is universal.

"In the Fire of the Heart," Mr. Trine's new book, he takes up this question in just this way. He has the faculty of arranging the statistics of poverty in such a way that they are clear and impressive, and quotes extensively from well-known authorities, showing, for instance, from the census of 1900, that for the over 5,000,000 wage earners engaged in manufacturing, the average wage was, in round numbers, \$445 per year, that the average in the anthracite coal districts is less than \$500, and that about 60 per cent. of the workers received less than \$450, all of which is fully set forth in "Free America."

He notes, also, the increase in the cost of living, which amounts to about 55 per cent. since 1906, according to Bradstreet's report, and the pitifully small increase in wages in the same time.

It is, therefore, a most useful book, though it is to be regretted that Mr. Trine has accepted so many quotations without citing the sources from which they originally came, and also that the preface, good in itself, is marred by exceedingly careless English.

The book proposes, for an immediate remedy, proportional representation and direct legislation as a means of getting what the people want.

BOLTON HALL.

A JACK LONDON PLAY.

The Scorn of Women. By Jack London. The Macmillan Company, New York and London, 1906. Price \$1.25.

The author of "The Call of the Wild" gives us further proof of his versatile genius in this not over fine or heroic play in three acts. It deals with the social life of a Klondike mining camp, the untrammelled freedom of which is breezily brought out in the action of the various original characters first introduced to us in the Alaska Company's store at Dawson. An Eldorado king, "simple, elemental and almost childish," but worth two millions, is caught in the snares of a wily Hungarian woman with whom he is planning to run away at midnight. The wife of Captain Effingwell plots to detain him at a mask ball in order to save him for the sweetheart who is coming from the States to marry him, and who is expected to arrive the next day. Freda, a Greek dancing girl, with the same end in view, carries him off to her cabin and dispatches her magnificent dogs and a trusted Indian to bring the ice-bound Flossie as swiftly as possible to her door; and just as the bewildered man begins to make violent love to her the innocent and trusting Flossie arrives, to be clasped with the same ready affection in the "simple elemental" man's arms.

The minor characters figuring in these Klondike