

Another paragraph discloses to white readers the feeling of Negro slaves themselves toward slavery:

I think there is in the mind and heart of every human being an ever-present longing for freedom, no matter how comfortable, in other respects, his condition in servitude may be. I have often heard it said that some colored people were better off in slavery than in freedom, but, in all the contact I have had with members of my race in every part of the country, I have never found an individual, no matter what his condition, who did not prefer freedom to servitude. I remember an acquaintance of mine telling me of an old colored man he had met somewhere in North Carolina, who had spent the greater part of his life in slavery. My friend, who had known the institution of slavery only through the medium of books, was anxious to find out just what the thing seemed like to a man who had lived in slavery most of his life. The old colored man said that he had had a good master, who was always kind and considerate; that the food he had to eat was always of the best quality and there was enough of it; he had nothing to complain of in regard to the clothing that was provided or the house that he lived in. He said both he and his family always had the best medical attention when they fell ill. To all appearances, as near as anyone could judge, the old man must have been a great deal better off in slavery than he was in freedom. Noticing these things, my friend became more inquisitive and wanted to know whether, after all, there was not a feeling deep down in his heart, that he would rather be back in slavery, with all the comforts that he had enjoyed there, than be free. The old man shrugged his shoulders, scratched his head, thought for a second, and then said: "Boss, dere's a kind of looseness about dis yere freedom which I kinder enjoys."

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

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PHILOSOPHY AND PROPHECY.

The Philosophy of Life. By Charles Gilbert Davis, M. D. D. D. Publishing Co., Grand Boulevard, Chicago. \$1.00.

This is the fifth edition of a philosophic and scientific treatise so simply and forcibly written that it appears to have attracted the attention and won the commendation of the press throughout the country. As scientists do not, as a class, deal with causes underlying the purely physical plane, Dr. Davis makes a marked and distinctive advance in his profession by adopting for his Philosophy of Life the motto, "Thought is the stuff out of which things are made." Reduced to its last analysis, thought is the motive power of all accomplishment; or, as the philosopher puts it, "Every act committed by every member of the human family since the dawn of creation has been preceded by thought." Accepting this as an axiom, it follows that all immorality, crime, disease and the general ills of humanity are the result of misdirected thought, and must be remedied first of

all by suggestion and inspiration and adoption of higher ideals. Punishments and purgatives avail nothing. The doctor has an exceptional charity for the wrong-doer because of his recognition of causes that lie deeper than the surface environment.

The influence of thought upon health, both for good and ill, is simply incalculable in the view of the author, who brings his own medical experience to the proof of his helpful philosophy. His absolute conviction of the truth which he presents in his vivid, vigorous and convincing way has a tonic virtue in itself, as has been observed in the effect on those to whom I have lent the book. As the author says: "The statements made appeal to the common sense of a reasonable being." Whether one accepts the exact terms of his philosophy or not, the principle remains true that "Our lives and our future destiny depend upon what we think." And let us add: Upon what we *will*.

A. L. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Prohibition. Selections. Compiled and published by Joseph Debar, Cincinnati, O.

—Effective Industrial Reform. By David C. Reid. Published by David C. Reid, Stockbridge, Mass. 1910.

—A Scientific Currency. By William Howe Crane. Published by Broadway Publishing Co., 835 Broadway, New York. 1910.

—The Confessions of Linda Poindexter. By Clara North Ruley. Published by the Broadway Publishing Co., New York. 1910. Price, \$1.00.

—Report on Transportation Conditions at the Port of New York. Submitted by Calvin Tomkins, Commissioner of Docks. July, 1910. Department of Docks and Ferries, City of New York.

—The Earning Power of Railroads. 1910. Compiled and edited by Floyd W. Mundy. Published by Jas. H. Oliphant & Co., The Rookery, Chicago. Moody's Magazine Book Department, Sales Agent, 35 Nassau St., New York. 1910. Price, \$2.50; postage, 12 cents.

PERIODICALS

The International Journal of Ethics for July contains an article by Charles Hughes Johnston on "The Moral Mission of the Public School." "We are now striving," he writes, "to consider our relation to the actual social world of ours, as honestly and with as much faith and spirit as we learned to look upon inanimate nature. . . . Naturalism was a great step toward actuality under every-day guise. It meant that educators might use some of the resources of every-day environment. . . . Environment in school now includes the social element also. . . . The child must be inducted, as