

The two novels within the purview of this review are, *The Master Word*, by Mrs. L. H. Hammond, and *The Secret Woman*, by Eden Phillpotts, both published by the Macmillan company, New York. Each can truly be called a strong novel, and each deals with its problems with the strength of an artist. Each has scenes that try men's souls, and each has one particular scene dealing with illicit passion. Each is tragic, the *Secret Woman* terribly so, and yet in each, certainly in the *Master Word*, which is love, there is a touch of victory. Each is painful in its main lines, and each has at least one character that gives a lighter strain—good-natured Joseph Westaway in the *Secret Woman*, and the delightful old Mammy in the *Master Word*.

After these parallels, likeness ceases. The scene of one book is Devonshire, and the characters are the humble farmer-folks of this part of England. The scene of the other is South, and the characters represent the South's heterogeneous social grades, white and black. The *Secret Woman* shows how all the deep problems of humanity can be presented, disputed and wrought out in the microcosm of a country neighborhood. The *Master Word* deals primarily with an acute phase of the race problem, a phase which needed such strong handling as it has here received. One qualification, however, may be made: It is doubtful whether there are many instances of the type of Viry. Yet this does not affect the problem, which goes deeper than the question of such resultants as the particular evolution of a character like that of this girl.

To speak particularly of the themes of two such books is hardly possible in a brief notice. The tragic potency of seeming chance, the far-reaching results of blind passion, the righteous anger of outraged pledges, the lingering indignation against hopeless conditions, the transcendent and transforming power of love—such are some of the themes that the reader will see presented. Abundant food for thought will be found, but it cannot be promised that either book will be enjoyed.

J. H. DILLARD.

POLITICS OF NEW ZEALAND.

Sins of omission cannot often be charged to Prof. Frank Parsons when he writes a book. He almost always covers the ground. Yet we fail to find in his "Politics in New Zealand" (Philadelphia: C. F. Taylor) any reference to one of the most important even if not one of the most spectacular reforms of that country. We refer to the law for local option in taxation, which has been in force a decade or more, and under which the single tax idea has been tried locally in some 60 municipalities with most gratifying results.

It may be, however, that Prof. Parsons and his publisher regard local legislation as not properly within the scope

of a book on the politics of a country as a whole. At any rate, with that single exception, if it properly is an exception, Prof. Parsons has given in this book a mass of well-arranged information regarding New Zealand as a political pioneer. It cannot fail to be welcomed by students of political tendencies in the United States. Some of the innovations New Zealand has made are not desirable and will doubtless be abandoned in due course; but many of them, though far from perfect as yet, are essentially good and destined to be perfected in time. All are fairly presented in Prof. Parsons's book, a publication which we can cordially recommend as furnishing in small compass yet with great detail the very kind of information which is necessary to appreciate the progressive politics of New Zealand, and to understand the reforms it has adopted, so many of which are now knocking insistently at the doors of our own politics.

The Torrens land-title system, public ownership of public utilities, postal savings banks, government insurance, direct nominations, destroying land monopoly by taxation, labor laws, the referendum, and numerous other reforms, as they are found in operation in New Zealand, are explained in the book, and a history of the political controversies in which they have figured is given.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

—*The Children of Good Fortune. An Essay in Morals.* By C. Hanford Henderson. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Price, \$1.30 net. To be reviewed.

PERIODICALS

A paper on "Labor Conditions in Australia," by Victor S. Clark, occupies 240 pages of the *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor* for January. Dr. Clark's investigations were made on the spot.

Tom Watson's *Magazine* for April is a very readable number, marred, however, by the conspicuous faults of the previous numbers—over-italicizing of editorials, and peevish nagging at Bryan. Both are significant of a chronic irritability, and Mr. Watson is really too big a man to foster in his mind anything so debilitating. Among the contributions are some good verses by Joseph Dana Miller, a story or two, and a paper on conservatism by Dr. Girdner.

The leading editorial of the *New York Independent* for April 20 is entitled the *Tendencies of the Democratic Party*. "It is plain enough," says the editor, "that the party is divided. It is also plain that the radical part of it is a large, growing and aggressive majority. Predictions as to what will be the policies of parties in 1908 cannot be made at this early day, but if there were to be a Presidential campaign next Fall the Democratic candidate would be a man of the radical type, probably in sympathy with

Mr. Bryan as to government ownership of public utilities."—J. H. D.

The leading article in the *Nineteenth Century* for both March and April is by John Morley. The subject is Democracy and Reaction, the articles being in the nature of a review of Mr. Hobhouse's recent book with the same title. John Morley is a writer whom one must read not once but three times, and these articles are well worth reading thrice. He deals with the subject historically, and though he comes to no cut-and-dried conclusion as to the next steps, the background he gives to our present stage of progress deserves the attention of all students.—J. H. D.

Ethical Addresses (1305 Arch Street, Phila.) takes the place of the *Ethical Record* as the representative publication of the Ethical Culture Societies. As the title implies, it reproduces addresses on ethical subjects. It is issued monthly. The September issue of last year contains an account by Percival Chubb of the origin and growth of the Ethical movement, along with an address by William James on "Is Life Worth Living?" Felix Adler, the founder of the movement, makes an admirable reply in the October number, to evolutionists who think of evolution as a process of generation from lower to higher, instead of a descent of the higher into the lower and thence upward. His subject is "A Modern Scientist's Answer to the Questions: Whence? Whither?" Wm. M. Salter's "Ethics in the Schools" and "The Bible in the Schools," in the November number, are especially timely; and, as with all that Mr. Salter writes, they are strong in presentation and gentle in spirit.

In a sermon on "Blessings Held in Trust," published in *The Helper*, of March 22, a Swedenborgian periodical, the Rev. William L. Worcester, pastor of the First New Jerusalem Society of Philadelphia, urges, as one method of missionary work for the doctrines of his church, something which all churches would do well to adopt: "We should not have two sets of principles, two standards, one for religion and the other for the world's affairs, but should make the eternal and heavenly principles of truth and right as the Lord re-

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