

---



---

## BOOKS

---

### ELLEN KEY'S "LOVE AND ETHICS."

**Love and Ethics.** By Ellen Key, author of "The Century of the Child," "Love and Marriage." New York. B. W. Huebsch, 1911. Price, 50 cents net.

Ellen Key is a tantalizing writer. The courageous fashion in which she has for so many years handled the problems of sex and marriage must win the frank admiration of all sincere souls. The strange blending of radicalism and conservatism on the other hand have made her a force effective in rousing thought on these subjects among those much too conservative to be touched by such writers as Olive Schreiner or Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

For while Ellen Key pleads for the immediate reform of marriage and divorce laws in all countries, always with freedom of divorce in view on the petition of either party as an object, and while she never wearies of insisting upon mutual love as the only solid basis for the marriage relation, and is therein a radical of radicals, she at the same time is found in the conservative camp in discussing the place of woman in the modern community. She insists, as we have seen, on woman's right to be a happy wife. Beyond that she is not greatly concerned with woman as a human being. Her sole important social function in Ellen Key's eyes is motherhood. A large and broad motherhood, it is true, with many alleviations of present burdens hinted at, but all the same based upon the old theory of submissiveness to a lot prearranged for her, although the submissiveness urged is rather to society than to the husband.

The author's fears of the new American woman and her undomestic ways have an old-fashioned ring, and are often very much out of keeping with facts. (Ellen Key has never been in America.)

"Love and Ethics" is intended as a summing up of answers to objections made to former books. If the unconvinced reader remains the unconvinced reader still, he is none the less touched by the loftiness of aim to which every page bears witness. One of the finest passages in the book is where the author very acutely points out how greater happiness in marriage has been the response to greater freedom of choice on both sides in contracting the marriage.

"When parents decided the marriages of their children, particularly their daughters, when the one all-absorbing question was 'Will I or will I not obtain the object of my love?' how lacking in spiritual qualities was love then, how little part it played in the whole spiritual life, how few shadings it had, what slender demands it made upon inward harmony. All emphasis had to be laid upon the mere external struggle. But now,

when the young lovers as a rule decide their own fate, what a wealth of new spiritual sensations, of varied shadings, of sentiment, sensibility and reserve they betray to those who are privileged to look into their souls."

ALICE HENRY.



### AN AGE-LONG CONTROVERSY.

**The Problem of Freedom.** By George Herbert Palmer, Alford Professor of Philosophy in Harvard University. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin Company. Price, \$1.25.

Professor Palmer wishes he were able to conform himself to the precept of that profound and limpid writer, Bishop Berkeley, who bids us "to think with the learned and speak with the vulgar."

The substance of his effort in this direction is embodied in a course of lectures delivered for the Lowell Institute, Boston, and revised in the present volume. Quite aware of the mental confusion that exists on the subject, this later expounder of the Problem of Freedom seeks to evade technicalities and to come down to the single naturalness of language adapted to the untrained mind.

A brief review is given of the arguments of ancient and modern philosophers who have wrangled over the matter of Free Will with an indistinctness that leaves the reader little wiser at the conclusion than at the beginning of the discussion. In view of such unsatisfactory results Prof. Palmer inclines to Henry Sidgwick's opinion, that persons act substantially alike whether they are libertarians or determinists; but as the problem is one to which every generation returns he proceeds to discuss both sides of the opposed doctrines, very generously leaving us to decide for ourselves to which school we give our preference. This is most kind of the Professor. For while we follow his fascinating argument on "The Improbability of Freedom" we do not care to be bullied into feeling that all things are determined for us. And no more when our liberty of action is asserted, are we ready to acknowledge that we are responsible personally for the events of our lives. The Problem of Freedom is far deeper than philosophers and moralists have measured, and no individual is able to solve it for another. This our author nominally admits in his chapter on the "Mysteries of Freedom" when he states his own limitations in declaring himself a libertarian.

"When we approach one of these puzzling matters which have bewildered the ages," he says, "our proper course is first entire frankness and then a serious effort to work out where the center of difficulty lies."

And one of Prof. Palmer's charms is the "entire frankness" with which he treats a subject that really demands superhuman understanding. We may wrestle with its mysteries in an intellectual way, but we find ourselves inevitably running up

against unanswerable objections on the plane of human observation.

It appears to us a self-evident truth that the principles of determinism and libertarianism are so subtly interwrought that we may adopt neither without, in a degree, committing ourselves, however unconsciously, to the leadings of the other.

Because Prof. Palmer confesses himself "a moderate idealist" to whom "mind is no accident—but rather the originating and explanatory factor conditioning all," we find his arguments' delightful incentives to thought upon a topic so vast that we have no desire, in our little human way, of arriving at definite and dogmatic conclusions.

A. L. M.

---

## BOOKS RECEIVED

---

—The Promised Land. By Mary Antin. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1912. Price, \$1.75 net.

—The Elements of Statistical Method. By Willford I. King. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.50 net.

—The Story of a Ploughboy. By James Bryce. Published by John Lane Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$1.25 net, postage, 12 cents.

—Sociological Study of the Bible. By Louis Wallis. Published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill. Price, \$1.50 net.

—Marcus Alonzo Hanna. His Life and Work. By Herbert Croly. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1912. Price, \$2.50 net.

—Scum o' the Earth and Other Poems. By Robert Haven Schaufler. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston. 1912. Price, \$1.00 net.

—The Science of Poetry and the Philosophy of Language. By Hudson Maxim. Published by Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York and London. 1910. Price, \$2.50; postage prepaid.

---

## PAMPHLETS

---

### Pamphlets Received.

The School Journal: Parts I, II and III for Classes I to VI. Published by the Education Department of New Zealand, Wellington, N. Z. March, 1912.

An Outline of the European Co-operative Credit Systems. Published by the International Institute of Agriculture, G. Lorenzoni, Secretary, Rome. 1912.

The Socialist Party in the November Elections. By Robert F. Hoxie. Reprinted from The Journal of Political Economy of March, 1912. Published by The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.

Review of Legislative Proceedings of Session of 1911. by Joint Legislative Committee of Direct Legislation League of Washington State Federation of Labor, Farmers' Union, State Grange.

The Initiative and Referendum: Necessary Aids to True Representative Government. By George H. Duncan. Published for the New Hampshire Direct Legislation League, George H. Duncan, Secretary, East Jaffrey, N. H. Price, 5 cents.

---

## PERIODICALS

---

### The Bookman.

The Bookman (New York) seems to be waking up. This old established conservative magazine, which has made itself an authority for dignified criticism of literature and kindred art forms, but which for the last decade at least has kept its pages free from all contact with the burning public questions of the day, as if in fear of any touch of progressive thought, has recently printed articles which indicate an awakening. Not long ago a remarkable contribution under the title "Proletaire" marked the opening of this new era. The March number contains a most sympathetic and understanding review of Tom L. Johnson's book, "My Story." The fact of such a book receiving attention in the Bookman's pages at all was novelty enough; the manner in which it is handled completes the surprise. The writer of this review, which all those who knew Mayor Johnson's work will want to read, is George Middleton, a promising young playwright of New York city. Incidentally, Mr. Middleton is the son-in-law of Senator La-Follette.



### The Christian Science Monitor.

From its name, the Christian Science Monitor, published at Boston, is not uncommonly understood to be one of the organs of the Christian Science movement, somewhat as most religious publications are denominational organs, but this is a misapprehension. The Monitor is a national daily newspaper, and a model newspaper it has become. It stands for clean journalism, not so much by profession as many other newspapers do, but firmly so in fact. Avoiding the sensational, it gathers the news that is worth while and of general interest, and comments with editorial fairness. Although it carries a religious article daily, its recognition of readers' rights is so sensitive that these articles are distinguished in such manner that no one who buys the paper for its journalistic merits may find himself a victim of proselyting. He may read the religious article or ignore it, at his own will. We are moved to say this of the Monitor, because we have found in it one of the few really good newspapers of this country, a judgment which is confirmed by the opinions of readers outside the religious body whose name it bears.



### The French Singletax Review.

Writing under the date of March 10, Mr. Georges Darien, editor of "La Revue de L'Impot Unique," says: "A legislative election is taking place in Paris at the end of the present month (the present member having unexpectedly resigned his seat), and it has been resolved that I shall be a candidate. I have no hope of winning the seat—as our propaganda has not been carried on long enough—but it will create a great agitation around our ideas; and we shall be able to see exactly to what extent our doctrines catch the people at large. . . . My electoral campaign will bear exclusively upon the taxation of land values." In view of the political contest the April num-