

*Sex Antagonism.* By WALTER HEAPE. New York: Putnam, 1913. Pp. 217. \$1.50.

It must have been a sense of humor which led the publishers to put this volume in their "Science Series." It is a fine illustration of the sort of mental pathology a scientist, especially a biologist, can exhibit when, with slight acquaintance with other fields than his own, he ventures to dictate from "natural law" (with which Mr. Heape claims to be in most intimate acquaintance) what social and ethical relation shall be. And when such a man-with-one-idea elects to write on the relation between the sexes, or on the woman movement, the product is very likely to remind one vividly of the early nineteenth-century screeds on the character and duties of women.

The bulk of the book is taken up with a lamely sustained effort to show that Frazer's theory of the origin of exogamy and totemism, as set forth in *The Golden Bough*, is erroneous; that the true origin of both lies in biological law, exogamy arising from the male's need of sexual variety, totemism from the female's effort "to restrict the wanderings of the errant male" and to strengthen the bonds which consolidate the family. Thus from the earliest primitive times there has been a natural sex antagonism, because the sexual needs, as well as the reproductive organization—and hence the nervous and mental make-up—of men and women are different and always will be. This of course opens the way for reiteration of the old platitudes about equality not being possible, and woman as the complement to man.

From the thinly veiled plea for a double standard of sex morals, if not for out-and-out polygamy, we gather that Mr. Heape is not more interested in disproving Frazer's theories than he is in setting the world aright as to the present "sex war." He sees only disaster and perversion in the modern woman movement—perhaps because in his view the modern woman movement and the English militant suffragism are synonymous. The present movements can only result in increasing the number and power of mentally and physically pathological spinsters—the bulk of the feminists belong to this class—who will rule society with perverted notions, to the lasting detriment of the normal women (and the more exclusively maternal, the more normal they are). Only disaster to the race can follow.

Such a book, neglecting all economic, psychological, and ethical values, deserves slight attention.

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