

In His Own Image. By Mary Briarly. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1921.

"It is the object of this book," says the author, "to set forth seriously the woman-soul of the twentieth century, . . . by revealing the aspirations and inhibitions of diverse women in their mating and their reaction to life." This avowed purpose reveals at once the character of the book. It is written, of course, from a feminist and from rather an emotional point of view; the author sins against both art and life by having all her women wise and strong, or glorified through sacrifice, and most of her men (with three shining exceptions) brutes or fools or both. There is a good deal of philosophizing in dialogue form. But it is a thoughtful book; it has plenty of dramatic and "human" interest to hold the reader, and it is written sincerely, without bitterness, and well.

The Golden Answer. By Sylvia Chatfield Bates, author of "The Geranium Lady," "Elmira College Stories," "The Vintage," etc. New York, 1921. The Macmillan Company. 289 pp.

A well executed romance to illustrate the transforming power of love, in which it is the woman, this time, who is influenced by the love of a patient husband. Interesting and profitable.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

The Salvaging of Civilization: The Probable Future of Mankind. By H. G. Wells. The Macmillan Company, New York. 199 pp. \$2.00 net.

Lucretius observes in his poem *De Rerum Natura* that "no pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth, and to see the errors, and wanderings, and mists, and tempests, in the vale below." To which Lord Bacon replies in a passage of charm: "certainly it is heaven upon earth to have a man's mind move in charity, rest in providence, and turn upon

the poles of truth." As to how far this comment is applicable to Mr. Wells, is an open question, though one hardly conceives of him as being either charitable or inclined to a trust in providence for the consummation of any far-off divine event. Yet, one desires to attribute to him sincerity of motive in discussing what he terms "the task of bringing about that world state which is necessary to prevent the decline and decay of mankind." The picture is drawn on a bold canvas and the project described in minute detail. Hardly anything meets with his approval, and nothing will be contributory to his project without radical change. Apparently Mr. Wells is a Free Lance and moves about unfettered in any realm. The League of Nations becomes a sordid combination "of Balfourian jobs and gentility" and "a miscellaneous assembly that will not mix," possessing no central idea, without a heart, only a mere formula. The Bible—the Book that has held together the fabric of civilization, that has been and is the handbook of life to millions of men and women—is old and obsolete, redundant and useless, ready to be scrapped; and from whatever might be left of its remains to reconstruct a new Bible of Civilization which will have the following divisions: The New Story of Genesis; The Books of Conduct and Wisdom; The Anthologies of Poetry and Literature, and The Book of Forecasts. The difficulties of producing such a Bible are recognized but great confidence is reposed in the genius of the English-speaking peoples to do it and to do it well. In the event that a representative committee fail to produce such a book, Mr. Wells would perhaps nominate himself, but modesty forbids. Such a Bible is essential to this world state, its unifying bond. It will place great emphasis on human ability and stability *via education*; it will have less to say, if anything, about the possibilities of the race under the blessings of God *via regeneration*. *Nihil mortalibus ardui est*—the Superman arrives! But this super-civilization has not yet arrived nor will it be ushered in without a little help from its Eternal Conservator.

The state, the schools, the college, the university, all come under the ban of his trenchant pen; all need reformation; but there will be a diversity of opinion as to the effectiveness of the

remedies which Mr. Wells suggests. As a matter of fact the author is extremely pessimistic as to the probable future of the race, though he permits one ray of light to break through in the remote possibility "that before our lives run out we may feel the dawn of a greater age perceptible among the black shadows and artificial glares of these unhappy years."

Such an admission is worth something; and then the situation might not be as hopeless as he imagines. But whatever might be the sum total of the impressions made by the perusal of the book, one comes through it with the conviction that he is here dealing with a man who does his own thinking, who follows not as a galley slave in channels of others. He is bold and vigorous in expression, and in both the content and manner of his statements reminds one of Carlyle. What is more, Mr. Wells has the reading public listening to him as few men have, and though he might not be able, as his Mr. Britting, to see the project through, he is thrilled by his audience and his cause, and fights in the open. Watch Wells. J. MCKEE ADAMS.

Essays, Speculative and Political. By the Rt. Hon. Arthur James Balfour, M. A., F. R. S., LL. D., D. C. L., author of "Theism and Humanism," etc., etc. New York, 1921. George H. Doran Company. 241 pp. \$3.00 net.

One of the deservedly most popular British thinkers gives us now a fresh volume of his thoughts. But while a fresh volume of thoughts it is hardly a volume of his fresh thoughts, for the essays here are as old as 1894, on "Psychical Research," and only a few do not antedate the War.

It is interesting to read his friendly discussion of "Anglo-German Relations" as viewed by him for German readers in 1912. The other political essays are on "Treitschke's View of German World Policy" (1916), "The Freedom of the Seas," written in 1916 for the American people, and "The Foundations of a Durable Peace," being "The British Reply of January, 1917, to President Wilson's dispatch to the Entente Powers requesting information as to their aims."