

and story of a young milliner, born for success and joy in life, awakened by the sadness and poverty about her, until she conceives an all consuming passion for the poor, and, thrilled with faith in the sacredness of her mission, is impelled at last to give up the man she loves, and the uncle who has reared her, to enter "the sisterhood of service". Both books idealize the life of the nun, and sincerely enough, glorify Catholicism. There is a suggestion of Daudet in the style; the same simplicity touched with poetry, the same intermingling of nature's moods with man's. Yet the style lacks the realistic vividness and vigor of a Hugo, or a Zola. Still there is a subtle descriptive power, imparting a haunting quality which makes one feel instead of see, which together with his delicate ability to unravel the skeins of simple souls, goes far to account for Rene Bazin's widespread popularity in France to-day.

GEO. B. EAGER.

The Country Town.

By Wilbert L. Anderson, with introduction by Josiah Strong. The Baker & Taylor Company, New York. 1906. 12 mo., 307 pp. \$1.00 net, by mail, \$1.10.

The title page suggestively calls this book a study of rural evolution. It treats of the vital interests of a full half of the modern world. The author is profoundly convinced that it is time to attempt a careful survey of this whole region, into which adventurers have pressed rashly, and from which explorers have brought disheartening reports. To tell the truth is better than to be an optimist, but one may count himself fortunate who can both be truthful and optimistic. The aim here is to set forth rural changes in their historical, scientific and social aspects. The author shows himself no mean master of his subject and his method. He justly hopes that a cheerful view of conditions and tendencies in this region that affords so many ambushes for the advocates of despair will be easier for those who follow him in these discussions. Dr. Strong pronounces this a much needed and valuable book. The author not only has faith in the future of the country town, but he is able to render a reason for the faith that is in him. His confidence is based on the results of a close and scientific scrutiny

of the complex influences which are at work upon the population of country communities. As Dr. Strong says, families run out both at the top and at the bottom of the social scale; in the great middle class lies the hope of society, and it is this class that is to be found chiefly in the country. The author doubts if the decadent rural towns are as bad as the city slums. But he rests his argument upon the favorable showing of the country as a whole as compared with the city as a whole. The reason that crime flourishes in certain rural communities is that there is such lack of education, moral and religious training, uplifting examples, in short, a lack of favorable environment, and not, as some say, a lack of individual stamina. The book is a trumpet call to more liberal, and hopeful and patient effort for the education and the evangelization of this sadly neglected and disparaged half-world. The issue depends in every community upon tactful, patient, generous, consecrated and hopeful activity. Here is a loud call to missionary zeal.

GEO. B. EAGER.

The Social Duty of Our Daughters.

By Mrs. Adolphe Hoffmann. Vir Publishing Company, Philadelphia 1908. Cloth, 69 pp. 35 cents net.

The author of this beautiful little book is a cultivated Christian mother and writer, of Geneva, Switzerland, who has achieved shining prominence in European reform work. She here addresses to mothers and their daughters who are budding into womanhood a message that is exceptionally frank, but never indelicate, on the dangers of girlhood and young womanhood, and the sacredness of wifehood and motherhood. "I am writing this frankly," she says, "in the interests of our daughters, nay, still more, for the sake of our dear children—fully convinced that one of the first, social duties of woman is that of sacred motherhood—of a motherhood consecrated to the welfare of others". "To enter upon relations out of which a new being may come into existence branded with the stigmata of corruption, shame and vice, is anti-social, and just as much a social crime as an act of immorality." "Is it not this, even more than unchastity, which constitute the guilt of girl-