

This is a trenchant and altogether vigorous indictment of all forms of modern philosophy, including pragmatism, for unreality and separation from actual life in their dealing with the problems of being. "The World We Live In" is "Everybody's World" and a philosophy that soars in the air and presents as fact what is unintelligible, and, when explained, unreal to the every-day man, is no true or practical philosophy of existence. The volume presents a fine plea for conservative regard for the traditional forms of thought and faith, as products of history and so not essentially irrational. The continuity of history does not free us from the "jolts" of new truth, but does exempt us from the demand that all the past be treated as superstitions and worthless. "The will to believe," resting as it does on the more fundamental "will to live," is to be treated not alone with reverence because of sentiment but with respect because of worth.

The author writes with a fluent, popular style influenced by a playful and bantering humor that makes reading easy.

W. O. CARVER.

The Fitness of the Environment; An Inquiry into the Biological Significance of the Properties of Matter: By Lawrence J. Henderson, Assistant Professor of Biological Chemistry in Harvard University. In Part Delivered as Lectures at the Lowell Institute, February, 1913. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1913. xv+317 pages, \$1.50 net.

Natural selection by the living organism in evolution has its counterpart in the fitness of the environment for the action of metabolism. For half a century the scientific stress has been wholly on the selection, to so great an extent as usually to overlook and ignore, sometimes to deny, the fitness and its significance in biological evolution. Thus natural theology and theological reasoning were outlawed in many learned circles.

The present volume on an extensive scale of detailed argument discusses the properties of matter and shows the scientific necessity for recognizing the neglected factor. The argument is conclusive and gives distinct footing in science for a contention never given up by the theologian.

But the author's metaphysical application of his thesis is by no means what the theologian might have anticipated or wished. So far is he from supporting the idea of vitalistic evolution as against mechanistic that he actually uses his conclusion as a basis for excluding "vitalism," vigorously. He places the vital, teleological, factor in evolution prior to the origin of the process and concludes that for the scientist the mechanical interpretation of nature is complete and exclusive. And he claims Bergson in support of the principle for which he pleads. At the point of departure from science to metaphysics we may part company with the author and use his valuable data in support of "vitalism."

W. O. CARVER.

Man a Machine: By Julien Offray de la Mettrie. French-English; Including Frederick the Great's "Eulogy" on La Mettrie, and Extracts from La Mettrie's "The Natural History of the Soul." Philosophical and Historical Notes by Gertrude Carman Bussey, M.A., Wellesley College, Chicago. The Open Court Publishing Co., 1912. 216 pages.

This work from the first half of the eighteenth century is presented here in perhaps the best French edition with a good English translation. The extracts from "the Natural History of the Soul" are fittingly combined with the argument for the nature of man as a physical mechanism. This voice, anticipating by a hundred years much that was so popular last century is interesting and the editorial notes show insight and research.

V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Problems in Modern Education. Addresses and Essays by W. S. Sutton, Department of Education, University of Texas. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1913. \$1.35 net.

The twelve addresses and essays contained in this volume discuss vital problems in the field of modern education. From the nature of the case there can be no unifying principle in the several discussions, unless it be that of "concrete idealism." We