

unquestionable that he has good standing in the scientific world, as his position and his membership in numerous scientific societies, American and European, attest. He has certainly given us a fascinating survey of the process of "the evolution of worlds" in these lectures, beginning with the birth of a solar system and ending with the death of a world. The style is popular; there are few technicalities; the treatment is thoroughly scientific. And the reader is simply entranced as he follows this entertaining lecturer through the starry heavens.

Another equally attractive feature of the book is the beautiful illustrative plates. Altogether it is a fine specimen of the art of book-making. If the reader desires to be lifted for a few hours above the petty considerations of this hum-drum life into the region where his mind is refreshed and expanded by the contemplation of vast eons and spaces—the region where science and poetry are one and fill the soul with awe, let him read the book.

C. S. GARDNER.

The Psychology of Thinking. By Irving Elgar Miller, Ph.D. Departments of Psychology and Pedagogy and Supervision of Practice Teaching, State Normal School, Milwaukee, Wis. The Macmillan Co., New York. 1909. Price \$1.25.

As one might judge from his position, the author has in mind the pedagogical aspects of his subject; and it is an excellent book for teachers. It is a good book for any person who is interested in what was called not long since "the new psychology", though the adjective "new" is less and less frequently used in this application. The author does not, as the title indicates, undertake to cover the whole field of psychology, but limits himself to the consideration of the process of thinking, which he considers altogether from the dogmatic and functional point of view. Thinking is a special phase of the general process by which the psycho-physical organism adjusts itself to its environment. By this he does not mean to teach, or to intimate, that consciousness is a mere useful appendage to the physical being, but is the function by which man relates himself to the metaphysical as well as physical factors of his

environment. Of the processes of consciousness "thinking is the most central and significant".

We shall not go into details. For those who are interested in this subject—and certainly every preacher should be—and who have not an expert knowledge of it, this is an excellent book. It is clear in analysis and in statement, and, while thoroughly scientific in terminology, is not over-loaded with technicality.

C. S. GARDNER.

The Study of Religion in the Italian Universities. By Louis Henry Jordan in Collaboration with Baldassare Labanca, Oxford University Press, New York. 1909.

There can be no doubt that the religious condition of Italy is in some respects deplorable. Beside the vindictive hostility of the Catholic Church to all freedom and evangelical life, there is widespread skepticism and indifference to all religion. Since 1873 the universities of Italy have been without theological faculties and almost without religious teaching of any kind. This abolition of theological study in the universities was due to the allied opposition of the Catholics and skeptics. The former opposed freedom in religious teaching, the latter opposed all religious teaching, and together they abolished it. It is true the way was left open for the government to appoint such faculties on a new basis; but the opposition has been so pronounced as to lead the government to leave the positions unfilled almost without exception.

In more recent times the Modernist movement has arisen and promises much in the way of freedom and enlightenment. But "the study of religion in Italy, and the provision of instruction in this department—barring only the very rarest exceptions—seem to some to be pernicious, and the rest to be useless" (p. 64). The lack of freedom in dealing with the subject is shown by the following quotation: "The whole world is down upon you if you speak in Italy of making an examination and criticism of the Religious Code. In this respect, we in this country think and act quite after the manner of certain scholars who lived in the very heart of the Middle Ages" (p. 76). One must accept the dictum of the Catholic Church absolutely or