

**The House of Rimmon.** A Drama in Four Acts. By Henry Van Dyke. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1908. Pages 120. Price \$1.00 net.

The drama of Naaman furnishes a fine theme for Dr. Van Dyke's genius. The plot is simple, but strong, and the interest is deep in the story of Naaman and Ruamah. The villainy of Rezah, the priest of Rimmon, and Tsarpi, the faithless wife of Naaman, sets off in fine relief the strength of Naaman and the fidelity of Ruamah, the Jewish slave girl who led him to Elisha and thus to the cure of his leprosy. The power of Assyria threatens Syria and Benhadad cowers in dread. It is a fine piece of work.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

**The Fragments of Empedocles.** Translated into English verse by William Ellery Leonard, Ph.D., English Department, University of Wisconsin. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company, 1908. Cloth, pp. 92. Price \$1.00.

Professor Leonard has done a welcome service in bringing before us in somewhat clearer light the impressive but mysterious figure of the great Sicilian philosopher and poet. In an introduction of a dozen pages we are given a brief account of the man and his works. The Fragments are next given, each immediately followed by its translation. The last twenty-five pages are devoted to notes not grammatical but purely explanatory of the thought. It is altogether a creditable piece of work and conditions one pleasantly to study the ideas of Empedocles for himself—albeit the pleasure is sadly marred by the fragmentariness of what we possess. However, enough can be caught to enable us to recognize his kinship with Lucretius and some quite recent thinkers, and it is not only interesting, but also instructive to see how possible it is for even an extraordinary mind to entertain ideas many of which must strike the ordinary reader of today as fantastic and absurd.

J. H. FARMER.