

"The subconscious mind" is an easy phrase and is a sort of scientific terra incognita. It can mean only those psychic processes which lie beyond the limits of consciousness. It is generally admitted that subconsciousness or non-conscious activities react upon the conscious activities of our minds, and *vice versa*. The vital functions of the body or rather the nervous activities which control those functions, are subconscious; but our conscious states of mind react upon and modify those activities, and therefore affect the physiological functions. These conscious states are under the control of will; or if morbid conditions have enfeebled the will, another person may give aid by suggestion. The doctrine of suggestion and auto-suggestion is but the careful formulation of a principle on which we are constantly acting in our dealing with one another and with ourselves.

The authors in the latter part of the book discuss the therapeutic value of faith and the relation of religion to health. In this they are thoroughly reverent and exhibit a genuine and earnest faith in the great Christian verities. At the same time they are thoroughly scientific, and maintain that the health-value of faith in the living God and in his immediate providential care is in strict accordance with the established principles of psychology.

Certainly what they say deserves the most serious consideration of thoughtful men, and is receiving it from open-minded ministers and physicians all over the country. Very few subjects are of more importance to the preacher today than psychology. Of course, it gives a great opportunity for cranks, but that is only an additional reason why sane and balanced men should look deeply into these things.

C. S. GARDNER.

The Fact of Conversion. By George Jackson, B.A. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, 1908. Pages 236. Price \$1.25 net.

This volume gives us the Cole Lectures for 1908, delivered before Vanderbilt University. The author has chosen a subject

of perpetual importance and of present scientific interest as well as of religious concern. The psychological and metaphysical bases now being found for the deep facts of Christianity constitute some of the most gratifying efforts and results of the application of scientific study to religion. This course of lectures does not aim, primarily, at scientific discussion from the technical side, but is addressed to those "engaged in the practical work of the Christian Church." The author has read widely and draws freely on his reading and brings us a wealth of informing and inspiring biographical material for the illustration of his subject. He discusses "The Reality of Conversion" both "as a Fact of Consciousness" and "as a Fact for Life;" "Varieties of Conversion," "The Patriarchs of Conversion," "The Psychology of Conversion," "Present Day Preaching and Conversion." Our author has by no means made the mistake of surrendering absolutely to all the tentative conclusions of psychological investigations in the realm of religious experience. Perhaps he is even a bit too chary of these conclusions, though we all know well enough how new is this excursion of psychology and how crude, as yet, the methods and thought bestowed upon the deepest facts of human life. But Mr. Jackson has given the hand of greeting to the new science and accepts gifts from it which we all will gladly share. W. O. CARVER.

Heat and Cold or the Key to the Universe. By Jerry Sheehy. Published by the author with Dempster Bros., Sanfrancisco, for Printers, 1908. 262 pages. Price \$1.75.

This work is a literary and scientific curiosity. The author has discovered a "Key to the Universe" in the action of heat and cold upon matter and so fundamental and comprehensive is this basal law it must account for the origin of the Trinity.

Let the author tell his own story of the value of his work. In the preface we read: "The work leaves no query behind or before; all leading questions of value to mankind are answered in a cursory way." In the "Conclusion" we read: "Having carried the same law at the foundation to inquiry within the various subjects, having found that it is equal to the occasion