

poor. The volume is a good illustration of anti-climax on a large scale. There are numerous short and appropriate quotations from an extensive literature, the Bible being studiously avoided, either through ignorance or rejection of its contents. Seemingly religion has no part in solving the Problem of Happiness, and this little life of ours is rounded with an endless sleep.

BYRON H. DEMENT.

**Human Nature in Politics.** By Graham Wallas. Boston and New York. Houghton, Mifflin Co. 1909. Price \$1.50 net.

For the task set before him in this book the author is well equipped. He is a trained psychologist, a teacher in the London School of Economics and Political Science, and also a politician of experience. This reviewer has found the discussion to be of great value, especially Part I; and some of the chapters to be of almost fascinating interest. The style is so simple and vigorous as to make it easy reading for one who has no special scientific training, and yet the discussion is thoroughly scientific.

After sketching the processes by which instincts are evolved, the author calls attention to the fact that "impulses vary in their driving force. . . . in proportion not to their importance in our present life, but to the point at which they appeared in our evolutionary past", so that the emotions connected with these old and fundamental instincts play a very much larger part in determining human conduct than the more feeble emotions connected with our ideas. Men, in other words, are governed principally by their instincts and fundamental passions. It is true that with the progress of the race rational determination of conduct gains upon the conduct determined by instincts; but the process is an exceedingly slow one. In politics men are swayed by instinctive emotion. Those primitive emotions become connected with certain symbols, a name, a piece of bunting, a mental image, etc. By the skillful use of these symbols powerful emotions are stirred and political results determined. In the process dim ideas and trains of reasoning are present, though these are

to a larger extent than is generally supposed determined by the instinctive impulse, in the great majority of men. Non-rational inference is a common method of reaching political conclusions. "The empirical art of politics consists largely in the creation of opinion by the deliberate exploitations of subconscious non-rational inference." From this point of view the author proceeds to discuss the material and method of political reasoning, and cogently demonstrates the inadequacy of the "intellectualist" conceptions of politics and political motives that have held sway in the past, especially from the time of Rousseau and Bentham to our own times. The political being, man, and his motives and environment are vastly more complex than the thinkers of the old school ever dreamed.

One might infer that the author is pessimistic as to democracy, but he is not; although he distinctly recognizes the fact that all thoughtful students of politics have reached the state of disillusionment as to democracy. But there is held out to us the hope that a new and higher political morality will ultimately result from the new knowledge of man as a psychic and social being and from a reformed and improved education based upon that new knowledge; and thus will be built up after awhile a more rational democracy.

The book is worthy of a reading by all thoughtful men, especially in America where the art of political manipulation by means of insincere appeal to the instinctive emotional side of nature is more highly developed than anywhere else in the world.

C. S. GARDNER.

**A Circuit Rider's Wife.** By Corra Harris. With illustrations by William H. Everett. Philadelphia. 1910. Henry Altemus Company. 336 pages.

This story was first published serially in the Saturday Evening Post. It is eminently worthy of this more permanent form of publication. It purports to be the true story, in part, of experiences on a series of circuits in Georgia. The Redwine circuit in the remote districts of the piney woods section