

Review

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The Ritual of the Mystery of the Judgment of the Soul, from an ancient Egyptian Papyrus ; translated and edited by M. W. BLACKDEN, S.R.I.A., VII°. London ; published for the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia by Bernard Quaritch. 5s. net.

Mr Blackden is an old worker for the Archaeological Survey, so we note his little book with pleasure. We do not pretend to understand its "Rosicrucian" guise, nor do we agree with his thesis that "certain portions of the Antient (*sic*) Egyptian 'Book of the Dead'" contain "transcriptions of fragments of Initiatory Ceremonial for the benefit of the Living, rather than Priestly practices for the benefit of the Dead." Mr Blackden has a right to his opinion, apart from the fact that he is an "S.R.I.A. of the Seventh Degree," whatever that may be. He takes no weird or extraordinary view of the meaning of the hieroglyphs, and translates a portion of the Papyrus of Ani as anybody else would translate it : that is to say, he is a perfectly reasonable Egyptological student. But of his peculiar idea as to the significance of the papyrus he gives no proof, and without arguments it cannot, naturally, be considered.

H. R. HALL.