

**The Qualities of Men: An Essay in Appreciation.** By Joseph Jastrow. Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston and New York, 1910.

This little volume is the by-product of the work of the author in the preparation of a book on "Temperament and Character." If his motive in giving it to the public was to whet the appetites of his readers for the larger volume, his purpose has been accomplished. No one can read it without a desire for the promised major work. To begin with, its style is charming, and the men who are writing for the enlargement of our scientific knowledge should not count this a matter of no moment, for a rich and entertaining style does not hurt the science and will secure for it a reading by many who, while they appreciate the scientific values of a book, rebel at having to secure those values at the cost of constant literary disgust.

Again, the thought of the book is illuminating and suggestive. There are two general principles elaborated in it. First, the differentiation of human quality has its rise in the sensibilities—responsiveness to the environment. Second, the environment, particularly the social environment, acts as a selective influence, determining the development of certain qualities and the discouragement and repression of others. In a given social environment certain qualities receive the highest appreciation, and men of that type come to the highest positions of influence. Thus is created a tendency among those living in that society, to cultivate those qualities and neglect others. Men are rated according to the degree in which those qualities are realized in them. In this way social ideals and standards are set.

The author makes a vigorous and timely application of these principles to the problems of education.

We are tempted to indulge in lengthy quotation; but we forbear. We advise our readers to get the book.

C. S. GARDNER.