

The Mechanistic Principle and the Non-Mechanical. An Inquiry into Fundamentals. By Paul Carus. Open Court Publishing Company. Chicago and London. 1913. Pp. 125. \$1.00.

An attempt to graft a spiritual philosophy into a materialistic stock would seem to be a hopeless undertaking. But it is in a sense attempted in this book. The author recognizes ends and purposes in the universe since they are given in human experience. Yet the mechanical explanation of things is necessary everywhere. Man is a machine, but he is a willing and purposing machine. The fact that his choices are predetermined does not alter the fact that they are choices. Thus the author thinks the dignity of man is in no way imperiled by his view, which, he declares, is midway between materialism and theism. The argument, however, does not convince. The view of the ultimate principle or meaning of the world is very vague and unsatisfactory. Choice, which is not an expression of freedom, does not leave man's dignity unimpaired. A God described as "the divinely grand immanent order of consistency, which is the foundation of all the uniformities of natural phenomena" is not a satisfying conception. The author in the latter part of the book gives the views of several other writers on both sides of the subject which make interesting reading.

E. Y. MULLINS.

The Assurance of Immortality. By Harry Emerson Fosdick. New York, 1913. The Macmillan Company, x+141 pages. \$1.00 net.

This book is one more evidence of the abiding interest in personal immortality, as it is also of the feeling that the grounds of this great hope need, and stand, renewed testing in the light of all man's advance in world theory. In taking up this task the author has especially "had in mind the man, conscientious about his daily work, with whom the words honor and friendship, fidelity and courage, weigh heavily, but who, occasionally lifting his thought to the problem of life everlasting, speedily turns away, saying: 'What difference does it make? At least I can do my present task well, and if there be any world beyond the