

That "the moving pictures bring us an independent art, controlled by esthetic laws of its own, working with mental appeals which are fundamentally different from those of the theater, with a sphere of its own and ideals of its own," is the contention of this book. The author makes an extremely interesting and convincing study of the psychology of the photoplay, in the first part, discussing it from the point of view of perception, attention, memory, imagination and emotion. "The photoplay tells us the human story by overcoming the forms of the outer world, and by adjusting the events to the forms of the inner world, namely attention, memory, imagination, emotion." This thesis has been worked out in detail in a really surprising way.

In part two, the author discusses the esthetics of the photoplay and is quite successful in demonstrating that it is a real and independent art, not a cheap imitation of the theater. The chapter on "The Purpose of Art" is a singularly clear statement of the theory of esthetics now generally held by psychologists. The art of the photoplay, the author rightly maintains, is yet in the crude state of its development, and his great possibilities.

In the last chapter on "The Function of the Photoplay" there is a frank recognition of the possibilities of evil as well as the possibilities of good in the "movies"; and the vast and growing social significance of the new art is emphasized.

Everybody interested in anyway whatsoever in this subject should read this book without fail.

C. S. GARDNER.

**The Negro Year Book: An Annual Encyclopaedia of the Negro, 1916-1917.** Monroe N. Work, In charge of Division of Records and Research, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Editor. The Negro Year Book Publishing Company, Tuskegee, Ala., 1916. 470 pp. Paper, 35 cents, postpaid.

This is the fourth annual edition of this Year Book. In everything save the quality of paper used in it, it is a thoroughly creditable, even praiseworthy, production, and at the price at which it is sold the material cannot be complained of. And one cannot but be glad that it is so published as to place it within

reach of all readers. Its range of information is so complete that one will find answers here to most pertinent inquiries touching the history, present condition and achievements of American Negroes.

There are articles, tables of statistics, biographical notes, lists of schools and all sorts of educational and religious data, accounts of Negroes' efforts in all lines of life-work and culture. It would be well for all concerned if this Year Book could be very widely consulted and studied by whites and blacks.

W. O. CARVER.

**The Life of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield.** By George Earle Buckle, in succession to W. F. Monypenny. Vol. IV, 1855-1868, with Portraits and Illustrations. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1916. 610 pp. \$3.00.

Volume III of this work was reviewed in these columns in 1915. The qualities that characterize that volume and which were then set forth have been carried over into this. The work is full not only on the personal life of its subject, but upon the history of England and the times. There have been few better studies of this period in English history. One of the great advantages of biography when well written is that it shows history in the making and therefore much more like it appears to contemporaries than other forms of history are usually able to present. This work is particularly strong in this direction. One can read this volume and get a most interesting view of English history as a whole in this period.

The work reproduces many of Disraeli's letters and state papers and thus gives an intimate personal touch to the narrative. This period is a very important one in English and world history in general and this volume constitutes an important contribution to the history of the period.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

**Daddy Gander Rhymes for Little Children.** By Maude McGehee Hawkins, Illustrations by Walker; Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York, 1916. 96 pp. 50 cts. net.