

Essays on Literature from the Literary Review of the New York Evening Post. Henry Seidel, Canby William, Rose Benet, Amy Loveman. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1921. \$1.00 net.

Essays by different authors that follow no order or logical development of thought but are characterized by a view of literature and life which is sincere and definite and imparts to the book a certain unity representing as it does a single philosophy of good writing and practicable art. The chapter on Pernicious Literature is well worth the price of the book. GEO. B. EAGER.

The Validity of American Ideals. Shaller Mathews. The Abingdon Press, N. Y., 1922. 207 pp. Price \$1.25 net.

The contents of this book were originally given as the "Lectures on the Bennett Foundation" Wesleyan University. This accounts, perhaps, for the somewhat patronizing attitude apparent in many places. But, in spite of a certain cock-sureness where seemingly it is not called for, the author sets forth a message that every American ought to read. While there is room for a more vigorous setting forth of Christianity as the foundation of American idealism, yet the ideals as set forth in this volume are of abiding worth and are clearly restated. There is no single volume in print that so clearly depicts America, actual and ideal. The author believes that "an understanding of the constructive ideals of our nation is indispensable to an intelligent citizenship, especially in an age which is suffering from the chaotic conditions which have followed the war." After telling us how to test the value as well as the validity of an ideal, the author sets forth the American ideals, clear and true. Then he discusses the foes to American ideals, democracy, co-operation and makes pungent and telling suggestions in regard to realizing true Americanism. It is a thrice worthy volume. If it could only be read and studied by the leaders of those numerous groups that constitute our population, a new day would dawn in our nation's life. F. M. POWELL.