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lution of the ideas and practice of representative constitutional government in this country from the first settlements of English immigrants down to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and he annotates the Constitution so as to show the derivation of most of its provisions from prior American governmental documents. It is an interesting attempt and respectably, though not brilliantly, executed. It has to be said that grace and clarity are too much sacrificed to brevity; still, it is a useful "worth-while" book.

The Drama

THE DYBBUK. A Play in Four Acts. By S. Ansky. Translated by Henry Alsberg and Winifred Katsin. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$2.

The dramatic literature of the Hebrew race is rich in plays of such great merit that they can be translated into other tongues and presented before alien peoples. If American managers were thoroughly familiar with the literature of this ancient race, they would find much material that would interest Broadway audiences. "The Dybbuk," drawn from this great mine of theatric wealth, has enjoyed a long and successful run at the Neighborhood Theatre in New York, and will probably be seen next season in every large city containing persons capable of appreciating it. It is founded on an old superstition, the ancient Jewish variant of the belief in the transmigration of souls. According to this superstition, when a young person is suddenly cut off at the beginning of a promising career, the soul leaves the body and enters into that of some other person, where it rounds out the unfinished career of its original possessor. In the play under consideration a young man dies and his spirit takes possession of a young girl with whom he was in love. It becomes necessary to exorcise this spirit, and this is done in a ceremony conducted by the Rabbi and assistant judges. At the conclusion of this strange ceremony the figure of the young man is made visible and is merged with that of the maiden, and, thus united, they disappear. Not the least interesting part of the book is the account of the ancient Jewish rites, and these, as one can readily imagine, are extremely effective as portrayed on the Neighborhood stage.

Travel

VIRGIN SPAIN. By Waldo Frank. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$3.

The book has been cried up as of transcendent wisdom and beauty, as the best book ever written about Spain. Far, far from it. There are some excellent passages; as the study of Isabella and the chapter on the Escorial. These are the products of the author's lucid moments. Were the whole book like those passages, it would be a very good book.

THE CITY OF THE SACRED WELL. Being a Narrative of the Discoveries and Excavations of Edward Herbert Thompson in the Ancient City of Chi-Chen Itza, with Some Discourse on the Culture and Development of the Mayan Civilization as Revealed by Their Art and Architecture, Here Set Down and Illustrated from Photographs by T. A. Willard. The Century Company, New York. \$4.

There is a comprehensive title-page for you! With so much explanatory matter relegated from text to introduction, the reviewer can use all his space to publish the glad news that a book dealing with the Mayas in terms of high romance has at last appeared. Research into Mayan codices, calendars, nomenclature, and so on has its useful and necessary place, but for real excitement allow us to assist Don Eduardo at his fishing from the bottom of the Sacred Well. What did he bring up? A figurine of flawless jade—and not one single out-

cropping of jade has ever been found on the American continent. Golden objects of every description. A snake of vulcanized rubber made probably two thousand years before Goodyear was born. Read, as well, his discovery of the Huun-tunich, the Stone Book, the Rosetta Stone of the Sacred City. It is to be hoped that Messrs. Willard and Thompson will have a hand in the making of the book which will describe the findings of the Carnegie Foundation expedition now at work in the City in Yucatan.

THE GLAMOUR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. By H. Glynn-Ward. Illustrated with Photographs by the Author. The Century Company, New York. \$3.

British Columbia has fared not too badly this publishing year, what with Bryar Williams's "Game Trails in British Columbia" and Stewart Edward White's "Skookum Chuck." However, there is still plenty of room for such an informative and vivaciously personal travel account as Mrs. Glynn-Ward's. It is a large order to put a province the size of Texas and Arizona combined into a book of two-hundred-odd pages, but her eye is keen and her sense of selection discriminatory. All her photographs are nicely calculated to rouse the bitterest envy in the breasts of city-bound readers. Gaze on "Pamm Creek on the Smoky River, Alberta, Where We Camped Our Second Night Out," and keep a decent regard for the last stipulation of the Tenth Commandment if you can.

Essays and Criticism

SHERWOOD ANDERSON'S NOTE-BOOK. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$2.50.

We get closer to Anderson's nature in these notes and human dramas than we do in his novels. He is not in revolt against life; he is interested and troubled by it. Professor Sherman's description of him as the impassioned interpreter of day-dreams of common people is true, but not all the truth. Anderson has much of the Walt Whitman in him; he is naturalistic because he feels nature, all through and all of it—woods and streams, toil and sweat, the sex impulse—alike. All his work shows intensity of feeling—mysticism mixed with realism. It is found in his earliest work "Windy McPherson's Son," as well as in "Dark Laughter." Readers may dislike Anderson, but they can't ignore him. He has power. If you doubt it, read from his "Notes" the sketches called "A Meeting South" and "When the Writer Talks."

Religion

AN OUTLINE OF CHRISTIANITY. The Story of Our Civilization. In 5 vols. Vols. I, II, and III. With Numerous Illustrations in Color and in Black and White. Bethlehem Publishers, New York. Dodd, Mead & Co., Distributors. \$5 per vol.

This huge work is at once a history of Christianity and a new Christian apologetic. The appeal is popular. The scheme is the grandest conceivable. The necessity of such a work is one of the great challenges of the age. Has it been met successfully? In our opinion, no.

Volume I deals with the Gospel story, the making of the New Testament, and the first century of Christianity. The familiar difficulties which stumble so many who would fain believe but lack faith—for example, the conception of Christ, the miracles, the Pentecostal "speaking with tongues"—are handled weakly, not to say disingenuously.

Volume II covers the period A.D. 100-1527; *i. e.*, it carries the story to the Reformation. Much of this volume is excellent scholarly work, but honesty compels the criticism that there is too much glozing; the ineffable controversial absurdities, the

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horrible crimes committed in the name of Christianity, do not receive the attention they require.

Volume III covers the Reformation, the origin and development of the Protestant Churches, the history of the Roman Catholic Church since and including the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, and "The Story of Christian Missions." This volume, like the previous one, glazes over the discreditable features of the history of Christianity, and (unlike Volume II) further offends by dullness.

The necessity is to be regretted of a criticism so unfavorable of a work whose aim is so admirable, upon which so vast a labor has been expended. But absolute candor is "indicated." The need of an adequate popular Christian apologetic is still unanswered; the challenge to the age is all the stronger for the failure of this work. One should not despair of a successful answer to that challenge.

Philosophy

CREATIVE FREEDOM. By J. W. T. Mason. Harper and Brothers, New York. \$4.

"Creative Freedom," says the author in his preface, "is the name given in this book to the quest which stimulates the evolution of existence in its progress away from the disintegration of Absolute Freedom." Quite so. He adds: "The author feels how inadequately he has performed the work of writing and rewriting his book." A perfectly adequate criticism, which happily relieves this reviewer of an ungrateful task. But just one sentence to prove how perfect a self-critic the author is: "The æsthetic reminiscence of the spontaneous creativeness of omnipotence may even cause man to consider himself omnipotently self-efficient when he is deep in æsthetic absorption." Let us pass on.

Miscellaneous

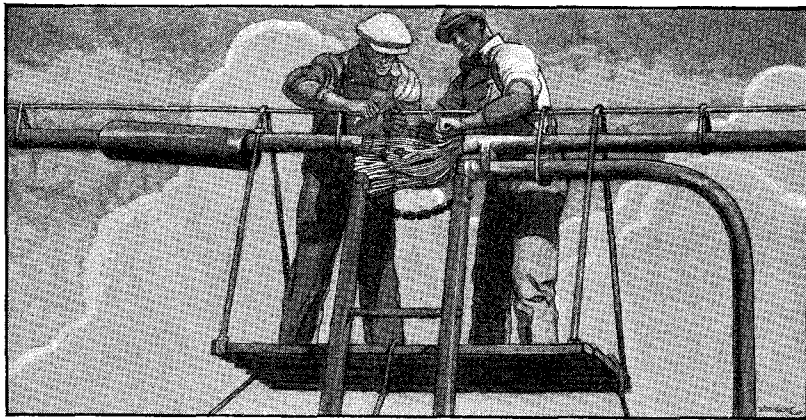
THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF LAZARILLO DE TORMES. With a General Introduction to The Rogues Bookshelf. By Carl Van Doren. Greenberg, New York. \$2.

The first volume of "The Rogues Bookshelf," a series of attractively printed books devoted to picaresque literature and tales of crime.

THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT. By Charles F. Thwing. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

The American college president, that unique functionary that has no exact counterpart in other lands, is honored in this book by the first comprehensive study that has been made of him. The qualities of Dr. Thwing and his veteran service as head of the Western Reserve University and Adelbert College admirably fit him for the task. He traces the evolution of the office, follows the president through all his numberless duties and complex relations, discusses the perils that always confront him and the rewards that sometimes crown his efforts, and speculates at some length on the future of the office and the character of its incumbent. Obviously some sweeping changes are necessary. The president of to-day is burdened with distracting and multitudinous cares. From such cares the president of the future must be freed so that he may give himself to his "few great, comprehensive, elemental tasks." He must be freed from the necessity of soliciting funds; from the details of material administration; from the duty of selecting teachers; and from the obligation of attending to the moral discipline of the students. He must have time to cultivate the friendship of his associates and students, time to mix more with the outer world, and, above all, time to think. He should be a thinker and an intellectual leader, and not a business manager.

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