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I.

PRESENT HINDRANCES TO MISSIONS AND THEIR REMEDIES.

THE cause of Foreign Missions is manifestly growing in favor with its friends, and possibly in disfavor with its enemies and critics. The number of its friends is steadily increasing from year to year. They are greatly reinforced from the ranks of the young. The prayers of Christian mothers who have been enlisted in the work of Foreign Missions for the last twenty-five years have been answered, not only on the mission fields, but in the enlarged knowledge and quickened interest of their own sons and daughters here at home. Students' Volunteer Movements, Inter-Seminary Missionary Conventions, and Christian Endeavor Societies are the results. And very naturally under such circumstances an increased interest is taken by many pastors and churches; and the preaching of an earnest missionary sermon, or the holding of a missionary congress in Synod or Presbytery, is a much more frequent occurrence than formerly. Theological instruction in our seminaries has never before placed so much emphasis on the work of Foreign Missions.

But on the other hand there is also an increase in the forces opposed to Foreign Missions. The enemies of the cause are multiplied; they are more outspoken; they are more inventive of objections; they are more bitter; and this, perhaps, for the reason that the work of missions has assumed greater proportions, and by its success has challenged increased attention among intelligent men and women of all classes. The secular magazines and newspapers have found it worth while to discuss the subject—its progress—its economics—its diplomatic bearings—the burden and bother of it

tionists. At the end we have a "phylogenetic chart" after the manner of Haeckel, tracing man hypothetically from protoplasm up. The book is brightly but somewhat loosely written. Its whole tone is reverential and even devout. It would have been more helpful, however, to discuss thoroughly one or other of the questions which are passed by—whether there is any sufficing proof of the truth of the evolutionary theory of man's origin, and what effect, if it is true, it will have on our moral and religious beliefs. Most men know to-day what the evolutionary construction of the origin of man is: there are many of us who would like to be better instructed as to its proofs and effects.—*Darwin and After Darwin*. An Exposition of the Darwinian Theory and a Discussion of Post-Darwinian Questions. By the late George John Romanes, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., etc. II. Post-Darwinian Questions: Heredity and Utility. 8vo, pp. x, 344. (Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co., 1895.) There is certainly no loose writing here; and no padding: Mr. Romanes' discussions go to the roots of the matters treated and constitute one of the best aids which have as yet appeared to the understanding of the problems that have arisen as it has been sought to apply the evolutionary hypothesis to the origin of forms, and of the various schools of thought which have sprung up in consequence. The Introduction (which we had already read as a paper in *The Monist*) is the most lucid possible statement of these divergent views, while the following chapters discuss with great thoroughness the nature of characters hereditary and acquired, adaptive and specific. No one who wishes to be informed as to the present aspects of thought in this department of investigation can afford to neglect this strongly reasoned book.—*Mind and Motion, and Monism*. By the late George John Romanes, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., etc. 12mo, pp. vii, 170. (New York and London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1895.) As the volume just mentioned, so this also is published from the late Mr. Romanes' papers, through the pious care of Prof. Lloyd Morgan. A good portion of this volume has seen the light before, in papers published in *The Contemporary Review* and *The Nineteenth Century*. They may now be better read, as the editor suggests, in connection with the later *Thoughts on Religion*, to the conclusions announced in which their text was not conformed. As representing Mr. Romanes' philosophical opinions in a tentative form and in a transition stage, they supply very interesting reading. The tendency of his thinking as here represented, seems to have been towards a world-view resembling that of Schopenhauer; he at least speaks of the human will as probably to be identified with the principle of causality in the world at large.—*The Growth of the Brain*. A Study of the Nervous System in Relation to Education. By Henry Herbert Donaldson, Professor of Neurology in the University of Chicago. 12mo, pp. 374. (London: Walter Scott; New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895.) This is the latest issue in the excellent "Contemporary Science Series," edited by Mr. Havelock Ellis. It is one of the best of a good series, and may be confidently recommended not only to general students of philosophy and biology, but also to all who have to deal practically with human brains—such as parents or teachers. The mass of facts brought together, as well as the author's care to touch fully on some hitherto more neglected points, combine to give a special value to the volume.—*Popular Scientific Lectures*. By Ernest Mach, Professor of Physics in the University of Prague. Translated by Thomas J. McCormack. With Forty-four Cuts and Diagrams. 8vo, pp. 313. (Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co., 1895.) Prof. Mach is revealed in this volume as a popular expounder of scientific themes of the rank of the late Profs. Huxley and Tyndall. And, in the latter portion of the book, he appears as a philosophical thinker of a high order, such as