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The Right to Believe. By ELEANOR HARRIS ROWLAND. Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. pp. xv, 202. Price \$1.25 net.

The writer of this little book, who is an instructor in philosophy and psychology at Mt. Holyoke College, explains its purpose and origin as follows. "I have happened to engage in discussion with some twenty persons, whose minds were more or less at sea in religious matters; and while their starting-points were different, their difficulties fell into somewhat well-defined types. The method which I suggested for answering certain of these questions was an apparent help in enough cases to justify me in thinking it could stand the test of a wider audience. To any criticism of the book (and there may be many) I can always reply: It has answered the questions of a dozen people. I claim for it nothing more." The book itself falls into six chapters, which discuss in a vivid and interesting way, though in every case with a foregone promise of orthodox issue, the necessity for a belief, the existence of God, the nature of God and of man, the divinity of Christ, the problem of evil, and prayer. Miss Rowland makes brilliant use of her philosophical and psychological knowledge; she meets the 'plain man' on his own ground of common sense logic, and beats down his scruples and objections with weapons like his own; her special pleading is concealed, partly by rhetorical skill, partly by intensity of personal conviction. She has, if the reviewer is not mistaken, a real gift of exposition in popular philosophy; and her greatest danger, if he reads her work aright, is facility.

W. JENKINS.

Spinoza's Short Treatise on God, Man and Human Welfare. Translated from the Dutch by L. G. Robinson. Chicago, Open Court Publishing Co., 1909. pp. xxiv, 178. Price, cloth, \$1.25 net; paper, 50c.

Students of philosophy are under a very real obligation to Miss Robinson for this translation of the Short Treatise—the first English version of Spinoza's first philosophical work. The translation has been made from the Dutch text of Van Vloten and Land, with frequent reference to the German of Schaarschmidt. It is, perhaps, rather over-literal; but in general, so far as the reviewer can judge, it is accurate and dependable. Blemishes of style and possible slips in rendering can, at all events, be corrected by the instructor in the classroom and by the translator in subsequent editions. Whether it was worth while to reprint, as introduction, Schwegler's chapter on Spinoza is, perhaps, questionable. Our dominant feeling should, however, be one of sincere gratitude to translator and publisher for making the Short Treatise accessible to our students.

JAMES FIELD.

Die Mechanik des Geisteslebens von MAX VERWORN. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910, 2te Aufl. pp. v, 114.

The first edition of these lectures upon fundamental problems of physiological psychology, by one of the foremost of German physiologists, has already received notice in this *Journal* (XIX, 1908, 266 f.). The second edition differs from the first only in a slight expansion of the text at certain points and some increase in the number of illustrations.

E. C. S.