

reader than long descriptions and strings of technical terms.

In the main the book may be regarded as the best introduction yet available for the beginner who wishes to gain a general knowledge of anthropology and its results as applied to the study of the barbarous and more primitive races of the world. The book is not intended as a guide to the literature of the subject, nor as a work of reference for every specialist in his own department of the science, but is throughout addressed to the general reader. With this aim in view, Prof. Ratzel has disencumbered his pages of all foot notes and references to authorities, and has applied himself to giving, as far as possible, a sketch of results without overloading any portion of his work with the discussion of technical or unnecessary detail. In so doing, the author has been well advised, for not otherwise could his outline have approached completeness within the limits to which it was necessarily restricted.

Prof. Ratzel has treated his subject in five sections or books, the first of which is introductory, while the others roughly correspond to the principal ethnological divisions of the human race. In Book i. he has given a very clear sketch of the principles of ethnography, describing the distribution and general aspects of mankind, the rise of civilisation, and the development of language, religion, science and art, and family and social customs. The next three books describe the more important undeveloped races of the present day. Thus Book ii. deals with the American Pacific group of races, under which heading are included the races of Oceania, the Australians, the Malays and Malagasies, the American tribes, including the ancient civilised races of America, and the Arctic races of the Old World. Book iii. is devoted to the light stocks of South and Central Africa, such as the Bushmen, the Hottentots and dwarf races, while Book iv. deals with the Negro races found throughout Africa. Book v., the last section of the volume, gives a general sketch of the cultured races of the Old World. This brief summary of the contents of the volumes will serve to indicate the very comprehensive character of this history of mankind. The treatment of some of the sections of the book might perhaps have been a little fuller with advantage, but, even in sixteen hundred pages, considerable condensation was obviously necessary; and with so trustworthy a guide as Prof. Ratzel the reader need not fear that any essential facts have been inadvertently overlooked. A special word of praise should be given to Mr. Butler, not only for the excellence of his translation, but also for the care with which he has verified and corrected the descriptions of the numerous illustrations in the text.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*A Theory of Reality.* By Prof. George Trumbull Ladd. Pp. xv + 556. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1899.)

PROF. TRUMBULL LADD'S "Theory of Reality," though intelligible in isolation, is a sequel to his "Philosophy of Knowledge" published in 1897, and a link in a chain of development beginning so far back as 1887. The Yale professor makes severe demands upon his public. His voluminous and discursive activity has now produced its

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fifth harvest, and we take it that there is at least a sixth to come. A certain condensation, therefore, and the taking of some things, e.g. the propriety of metaphysics, for granted, would not be out of place. Whatever be the case with the category of time, the reader's time is not unlimited. As compared, however, with its immediate forerunner, the irrelevance and repetition in the present work are only relative. And the review of his intellectual progress, with which the book closes, accounts in a not uninteresting way for his tiresome method of exposition.

Prof. Ladd's theory, which is avowedly speculative, may be described as a Realism of Spirit. It takes its starting-point from self-felt activity, finds "trans-subjective" elements involved in every cognition, and projects upon these by way of analogy the notion that they, too, are real centres of self-activity. "Things are known as imperfect and inferior selves." "The inner reality of all beings is spirit." "The transcendental reality of time is the all-comprehending life of an absolute self." "Viewed in its ontological aspect, all the growth of man's cognitive experience reveals the being of the world as a unity of force, that is constantly distributing itself amongst the different beings of the world so as to bestow on them a temporary *quasi*-independence, while always keeping them in dependent inter-relations, for the realisation of its own immanent ideas." This is not idealism, though in its affirmation of spiritual unity it steals the idealist's thunder. The nature of our knowledge of self and of the dynamical character of its agency necessitates realism; though, on the other hand, because connection according to some law must be predicable of reality, we are able, in the most satisfactory chapter of the book, to consider reality as an actual harmony of categories.

The interdependence, and neither independence nor dependence, of the categories is admirably treated, and Prof. Ladd discusses each in turn. He has in general (Pref., p. ix.) submitted the chapters which come into closest relations with the physical sciences to expert friends and colleagues. The treatment, however, of matter and ether as separate kinds of entity, though it may follow from his scientific definition of matter, presents difficulty to the metaphysical reader. Is ether then immaterial? The explanations of pp. 447-448 only partially solve the knot. Nor is it possible to agree with the symbolisation of time as a continuous flow of  $n$  infinites, and of space as in each moment an infinite content which equals and is known to equal  $n$  terms (p. 250). Prof. Ladd's point is, of course, to express the infinite simultaneous, but his symbols are misapplied.

H. W. B.

*Great and Small Game of Africa; an Account of the Distribution, Habits, and Natural History of the Sporting Mammals, with Personal Hunting Experiences.* Edited by H. A. Bryden. Pp. xx + 612; illustrated. (London: Rowland Ward, Ltd., 1899.)

THIS magnificent volume is a unique work on the subject of which it treats; the greater part of the text being written by well-known African sportsmen (among whom Mr. F. C. Selous occupies a prominent position), while a naturalist is responsible for the classification, nomenclature, and the leading distinctive features of the main groups. It is thus written throughout as the result of actual experience, and accordingly possesses a value far above the ordinary type of natural histories. Although mainly written for sportsmen, the professional zoologist cannot fail to find much matter bearing upon his own studies; and the African sportsman should no longer have any difficulty in identifying any of the species (unless they be new) which may fall to his rifle. The coloured illustrations, which for the most part are restricted to figures of the heads of the various species, are all that can be desired, both from an artistic and a zoo-