

Idem cum nova quaedam de Hibernia consilia sibi periculosa esse viderentur, maluit a duce suo, maluit etiam ab amico suo, discedere quam insulas nostras in uno coniunctas, quod ad sese attineret, sinere divelli. Ipse inter senatores suffragiis electos partium suarum ductor constitutus, socios suos quam fortiter ducit, adversarios quam acriter oppugnat! Etenim, quamquam in rerum natura eos potissimum flores diligere dicitur, qui solis a radiis remoti in horto secluso ab aperto caelo delicate defenduntur, ipse vitae publicae solem atque pulverem numquam reformidat, quolibet sub caelo ad dimicationem semper promptus, semper paratus."

But we cannot indulge in quotations which would reach to infinity. In nearly six hundred specimens of the art of Dr. Sandys there is hardly one from which could not be quoted some felicitous phrase or allusion. The letters written in the name of Cambridge are as happy. Among these, specially interesting are the letter to the American Cambridge and that to Lord Morley. The volume is one to which the scholarly reader will recur again and again with interest and admiration. R. Y. TYRRELL.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

Spirit and Matter before the Bar of Modern Science.

By Dr. Isaac W. Heysinger. Pp. xxviii + 433. (London: T. Werner Laurie, 1910.) Price 15s. net.

THE venue of Dr. Heysinger's elaborate though very readable work is the debatable land where three rival powers meet—religion, philosophy, and science. He shows very clearly that these three explainers are to some extent merging; the sharp distinctions are vanishing. Religion is freeing itself from rigid metaphysical dogmas, philosophy is becoming more concrete, and science is becoming more philosophical—is recognising that it cannot provide ultimate explanations of anything. The hope of the future is in a spiritual interpretation of the universe. This interpretation is being forced upon us as the only possible one by the recent advances in psychology and psychical research.

In dealing with spiritualism and occult phenomena generally, Dr. Heysinger takes up a sane and scientific position. He demolishes Hume's argument of "impossibility," quoting Huxley in support of the view that nothing can safely be called impossible outside mathematics and formal logic. As to miracles, either ancient or modern, the really scientific man will say:—"It is a question of evidence; I will make no *a priori* decision, either for or against." The evidence brought forward during the last twenty-five years, by such men as Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Crookes, Prof. James, Dr. A. R. Wallace, F. W. H. Myers, and other careful investigators, seems sufficient to establish at least a *prima facie* case. Nevertheless, as the author is careful to point out, it must not be rashly conceded that all psychic phenomena are due to the agency of disembodied spirits; many of these phenomena are probably the work of the subliminal consciousness of some living person, or even of some impersonal world-soul, as many philosophers have thought; but, in many cases, the evidence seems to be sufficient to justify at least a provisional hypo-

thesis that the minds of discarnate people are somehow still producing effects in our material world, by some such process, perhaps, as telepathy. The phenomena are various in kind, from planchette-writing to "apparitions"; but they point in the same direction—to survival of human personality past the wrench of bodily death, and consequently to a spiritual interpretation of experience.

The present reviewer is a member of the Society for Psychical Research (though belonging to its "sceptical wing"), and has devoted much time and thought to the subject for many years. He is dubious about "materialisations," and has lurid opinions about "slate writing by spirits" (or, rather, about the mediums who produce it), but personal experience has convinced him that things do happen, sometimes, which seem inexplicable by orthodox hypotheses. The thing to do is to maintain a rigorously scientific attitude, to observe the phenomena with all possible keenness and precaution against fraud or illusion, and to beware of drawing hasty inferences. Darwin collected facts for many years before he "permitted himself to speculate" concerning explanations. It is perhaps too much to expect that such caution should be shown by psychical researchers, for the subject is more intimately connected with our deepest interests; but it is nevertheless desirable. On the other hand, it can truthfully be said that there is more foolishness shown by the ignorant disbeliever who has never investigated than by the man who has learnt a little and is apt to believe too much.

Dr. Heysinger's book may be warmly recommended. Not the least of its good features is its tremendous armoury of quotations—showing very wide reading—from all the leading investigators. J. A. H.

PSEUDOCYTOLOGY.

The Plant Cell, its Modifications and Vital Processes. A Manual for Students. By H. A. Haig. Pp. xxx + 799. (London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 6s. net.

WRITERS of elementary text-books might be expected to take some trouble to ensure that their statements are, at any rate as far as possible, accurate and clear. It is a matter of common experience that failures in both respects are not uncommon, and the author of the book before us has compiled a volume which may have some merits, but they are hardly those which the ordinary student will appreciate.

To start with, we may remark that some of the illustrations and photographs are decidedly good, but that the text strikes us as useful chiefly as an exercise in criticism for more advanced students. What are we to make, for instance, of such statements as the following:—"The various forms of 'pits' occurring in the walls (of tracheids) may possibly be of use in sap conduction, but, as a matter of fact, these pits function more as a means of exit for the protoplasm after it has finished its work in the Xylem elements." The confusion (on p. 115) between normal and homotypic nuclear division is absurd. *Germination of pollen, &c.*, is wrongly and very misleadingly described as *maturation*.