

solutely nothing except to elect some other ruler the next time who may do the same thing.—Asher Gee Beecher.

BOOKS

THE RULING PRINCIPLE.

Your Forces and How to Use Them. By Christian D. Larson. The Progress Company, Chicago. Price, \$1.50.

Mr. Larson comprises in this book the substance of a philosophy which he has put more or less forcibly in a dozen previous volumes under various striking titles. The power of thought is most confidently and convincingly set forth, and if the persistence of thought could be equally impressed upon the open mind we might have practical and indisputable proofs of the force that shapes and controls human destinies.

Mr. Larson's argument is simple and direct. Its truth, if practically put to the test, might be personally proved or disproved before it is disputed. A persistent trial would at least develop the habit of self-control—a virtue well worth striving for.

Among the countless aphorisms that are given for application in the uses of daily life we may note these:

There is nothing in your life that you cannot modify, change or improve when you learn to regulate your thought.

The secret of right thinking is found in always keeping the mind's eye stayed upon the greater and better in all things.

The whine, the sting and the sigh—these are your enemies—these must never appear in a single thought or a single word.

To him who thinks he can, everything is an opportunity.

When failure comes be more determined than ever to succeed.

We all know that man is as he thinks.

A. L. M.

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SOCIETY AND THE LAW.

Legal Doctrine and Social Progress. By Frank Parsons, Ph.D. B. W. Huebsch, New York. Price, \$1.50 net.

With an excellent preface by Ralph Albertson of Boston, this book, written in the author's last illness on the basis of notes accumulated during several years, offers the student a theory of the law as an aid instead of an obstacle to social progress.

Mr. Parsons* was peculiarly qualified for his task, as Mr. Albertson says, by "his wide knowledge of the law, his work as a legal writer, and his experience as an educator, coupled with his national

services in behalf of true democracy." He was a member of the Massachusetts bar, and for many years a lecturer in the Boston University Law School; and among his books one of the best known is "The Railways, the Trusts and the People."

Extension of legal control into and over the field of social development, appears to be the central idea of the book; and in working it out the author has with infinite patience elaborated with infinite detail. His leanings toward judge-made law are probably the result, upon a progressive type of mind, of reaction from the rigidity of precedent.

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A STORY WITH A MOTIVE.

The Man with the Scar. By Warren and Alice Fones. Boston, Richard G. Badger. The Gorham Press. Price, \$1.00.

Through the intricacies of a plot involving the treacherous usurpation of valuable coal lands belonging to the young heroine of the story, there runs the silver thread of a faith in the overruling power of good which conquers every threatening evil and acknowledges love and justice as the supreme force of the universe. "The Man with the Scar," who has been, through Christian Science, "healed" of a terrible malady, is the good genius appearing on every scene of difficulty and helping to bring order out of the chaos of wrong thinking and doing. There is an agreeable shifting of atmospheres from the Art Institute, where Katharine is a student, to her native Cumberland Mountains, where her lover is seeking health that comes to him in an unexpected way, while Major Ensign, "the man with the scar," gives us a whiff of the desert air of Arizona, where he unearths the plot that forms the action of the story.

The simple faith of Jim Garner, the mountaineer, and the restoration of his wife, bed-ridden for twenty years, are minor but pleasant features of a book that will be dropped with a sneer by the skeptical.

A. L. M.

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OUR RAILROADS.

American Railway Problems in the Light of European Experience; or, Governmental Regulation vs. Government Operation of Railways. By Carl S. Vrooman. Published by Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto and Melbourne. Price, 6s (\$1.50) net.

By the classifications of this book there are three generic systems of railway management: the governmental, as in Switzerland; public service for private profit, as in England; and predatory, as in the United States. The first is shown by experience to manage the fewest people, the second to be

*See The Public, vol. xi, pp. 630, 681; vol. xii, p. 1051.