

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

A New Government Journal.

For some time past great dissatisfaction has been expressed by parents concerning the expense involved in the frequent changing of public school lesson books. At the same time, there has been a desire among teachers for more variety in reading lessons than any ordinary text book could furnish. The Education Department is endeavouring to meet both these wants in its School Journal, which has first seen the light in this present month. The Journal is issued in three parts—one for Standards I. and II., one for Standards III. and IV., and the third for V. and VI. In issuing this little official magazine, the Department has undertaken no light task, seeing that it is proposed to embody in its pages not only the staple reading matter for our Government schools, but the greater part of their geography and also their history—that unfortunate and discredited subject which has been almost eliminated from the syllabus in the changes of late years. We are glad, however, to see that the first issue promises to fulfil these ends in the best manner possible. The magazine is small, but packed with carefully graded original matter of a sort to interest young New Zealanders alike in their work and in their country. The publication is of distinct merit throughout. There is, however, one grave omission in our opinion—an omission which we believe beyond the editorial scope as at present defined. Early this year a deputation from the W.C.T.U. waited on the Minister of Education to reiterate the demand for scientific temperance instruction. The Unions need not be reminded of the excellent national work in this connection in all American schools (a consequence of the life-work of Mrs Mary Hunt), nor can they be ignorant of the good results among America's younger citizens. New Zealand cannot afford to neglect so powerful a factor in moulding her destiny. It was understood that the matter would be given prompt consideration, but the School Journal shows no sign of having received instructions as to temperance teaching. If Parliamentary sanction is necessary before this can be done, the question should come up without delay. This done, the Journal will bid fair to become a power in the land.

J.M.

"The Cosmic Procession."⁶

(By FRANCES SWINEY).

All is a procession:
The universe is a procession,
With measured and perfect motion!
—Walt. Whitman.

A few decades since scarce a Christian pulpit would have been open to the speaker who ventured to suggest that Revelation is continuous, and always and necessarily in consonance with human development and power of receptivity. To-day, Christ's words to His disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now," form a text not unfrequently preached from. This being so, Mrs Swiney's latest book, "The Cosmic Procession," will produce neither the shock nor the outcry it might have done had it first seen the light ten or twenty years ago. Dr. Stenton Hooker pronounces it an epoch making book. It certainly is a work indicating a line of thought that, if generally adopted, will materially modify current ideas, both social and theological. And even those readers who may not see their way to agree with all the author's deductions, will assuredly be impressed anew with a sense of woman's immense power and consequent responsibility.

In her Introduction, Mrs Swiney says, ". . . I have striven to bring before the reader a wider, deeper, and more complete aspect of the Eternal Truth than generally obtains. It is no new truth, for truth is from everlasting to everlasting the same; rather is it the phoenix rising from the pyre of our faulty and obsolete conceptions of the reality. My argument is the basic source of all phenomena,

The Eternal Feminine Principle,

by which all exists."

This Feminine Principle is the theme of Chapter I. "In the Archaic ages," writes Mrs Swiney, "when man lived in closer touch with nature, in more open communion with the realities of life, the chief divinities were feminine . . . and consequently the matriarchate was supreme in the various social organisations." Woman's characteristic industry and more highly developed emotional nature—love of offspring, courage in defence, fear of evil, etc., are noted as all powerful factors in human development. "The mother is the chemist who mixes the

* Ernest Bell, York House, Portugal Street, W.C., London.

ingredients which form the basis of character. . . We shall find that maternal impressions are at the root of all the variations and developments we see in the organic world, culminating in man. . . The mother's mental influence upon the brain structure of her offspring can alone produce a better standard of brain power. She has to build up the nobler, purer, brighter and happier manhood and womanhood of the future—the outcome of maternal impressions, rightly dirigated, controlled and synthesised. Her creative powers range from the strictly material to the sublimest spirituality; and through and by that spirituality she will, as the highest evolved organism and as the chosen medium to achieve the greatest results in the process of evolution, gradually uplift humanity. . . The children of the Great To-be will be the outcome of controlled and selfless parentage, and of noble and purposeful intent, not of aimless desire."

Chapter II. treats of

The Ultimate of Aim.

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers,"

quotes Mrs Swiney, and goes on to remark that man has from the earliest historic records regarded himself as the centre of the universe. "Working upon that assumption, logically he made . . . everything subservient to his behest." "The Divinity was glorified man, the life element was male, the forces, the attributes that governed and subdued the world were masculine. Man could not free himself from the limitations of sex differentiation. He opined that what was good for the man was not good for the woman." Combating these ideas the author says: "We must first make a clean slate of all past conceptions and arbitrary designations of natural phenomena. Our ideas are contracted by the limitation of language and the significance that custom has ascribed to certain words. Thus male and female are designated as individuals of different sexes when in reality there is only one sex, the feminine, maleness being an intermediate phase of development. As the celebrated scientist, Albrecht, remarks, 'Males are rudimentary females.' . . . The male cells are those which have gone too far in katabolic disruptive forces for the possibility of independent development. . . The female, as the most complex organism in every species, is the outcome of the best con-