

The value of a subtitle to a book is rarely so obvious as in the instance of the Rev. STEWART A. MCDOWALL'S *Beauty and the Beast: An Essay in Evolutionary Aesthetic*;<sup>5</sup> for those attracted to it by a memory of Madame Villeneuve's charming nursery story, *La Belle et le Bête*, may not only be disappointed but sorely puzzled what to make of this philosophic thesis. It is true that the first few lines of the introduction, "Are we to look at the beautiful with our feet firmly planted on the natural, or are we to look at the natural from the apparently precarious height of the beautiful? This, after all, is the dilemma of aesthetic, slow though men have been to realize it," will provide the casual reader with food for reflection, whether or not he is worthy. The author expands Croce's statement that beauty is expression in the following manner: "God is love; reality is love. Love is relationship. Beauty is the expression of that relationship." On the other hand, ugliness is the aesthetic or theoretical aspect of sin; in its practical aspect sin is uneconomic, unmoral.

*A Corner-stone of Reconstruction*,<sup>6</sup> by Four Chaplains to H.M. Forces, is a plea for social purity among men. It is a concisely worded handbook, written by men with a practical and sympathetic knowledge of humanity. It contains five short chapters and an appendix. The first chapter deals with a clear and able restatement of the moral standard. The second contains practical hints for those who wish to conduct social purity work; this chapter is the best in the book, and the authors have rendered mankind at large a very real service in writing it. The following chapter contains four specimen addresses, which were at various times delivered to large bodies of troops. These deal with the practical aspect and issues of social purity, the theme being developed on the usual lines. The discussion of the medical side of the question, in the fourth chapter, might have been omitted, especially as all necessary information on the subject is now provided by the State in a form easily understood. To sum up, this is a good book, sincerely and temperately written. It shows only those faults which appear inseparable from the ecclesiastical outlook on this subject.

Dr. JOHN O. TUNSTALL<sup>7</sup> has recently published a collection of short poems on various subjects, and so has joined the band of medical poets of whom the present Laureate is the outstanding example. Of these poems the most successful are those dealing with the country, particularly those about the English Lakes, which breathe a true love of nature. The longest is a sacred poem entitled "God's Plan," of which Part I only is given; three further parts in process of composition are reserved for future publication, when the whole story of man's creation and salvation will be told.

<sup>5</sup> *Beauty and the Beast: An Essay in Evolutionary Aesthetic*. By Stewart A. McDowall, B.D., Chaplain and Assistant Master at Winchester College. Cambridge University Press. 1920. (Pp. 93. 7s. 6d.)

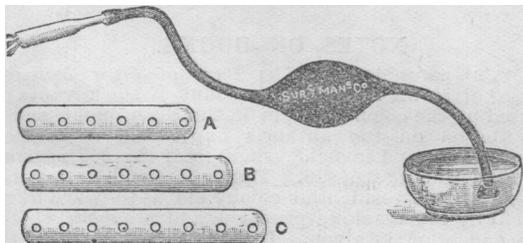
<sup>6</sup> *A Corner-stone of Reconstruction*. A Book on Working for Social Purity among Men. By Four Chaplains to the Forces. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; New York: The Macmillan Company. 1919. (Fcap. 8vo, pp. xi + 156. 3s. 6d. net.)

<sup>7</sup> *Poems*. By John O. Tunstall, M.D. London: Birmingham: Cornish Brothers, Ltd. 1920. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 124. 6s. net.)

## APPLIANCES AND PREPARATIONS.

### *A Combined Throat Irrigator and Spatula.*

WE have received from Miss Kathleen Taylor, Guy's Hospital District Nurses' Home, a specimen of a small appliance devised by her, and styled the "Barton combined throat irrigator and tongue depressor nozzle." It is made of



hollow glass, one end fitting on to a Higginson syringe and the other being perforated like the "rose" of a watering can. The object of this device is to allow the tongue to be depressed with the same instrument with which the throat is irrigated, and thus to afford a clear view of the affected part. It is made in three sizes, (a) infants, (b) children, and (c) adults, by the Surgical Manufacturing Company, Ltd., 85, Mortimer Street, W.I.

## UNIVERSITY FINANCE.

### PROSPECTS OF INCREASED GOVERNMENT AID.

A YEAR ago the Treasury appointed a University Grants Committee to inquire into the financial needs of university education in the United Kingdom and advise the Government as to the application of any grants that might be made by Parliament towards meeting them. The setting up of this committee gave concrete shape to the Government's recognition that provision for the aid of University education must be increased and consolidated, and that this could best be done on the advice of a single body. The constitution of the committee, of which Sir William McCormick is chairman, was stated in our issue of January 10th last at p. 54, where an account was given of the sums voted by Parliament for the financial year ending April, 1920.

Stated briefly, the annual recurrent vote for universities and colleges in the United Kingdom was raised to £1,000,000, and a special non-recurring vote of £500,000 was made for special grants in aid of certain universities, colleges, and medical schools, to assist them to re-establish their work on a basis of unimpaired efficiency after the war. The annual sums allocated to the different institutions take the form of inclusive block grants to be expended at the discretion of the governing bodies, the grants being made by the Treasury.

The Government has lately had under consideration the question of increasing these grants in aid of university institutions, and a memorandum on the subject was submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the University Grants Committee. In a letter to Sir William McCormick, dated July 16th, the Chancellor announces the Government's decision. While the Government recognizes the vital importance of the work of the universities in the national life, no supplementary grant within the present financial year will be considered; but in preparing the Budget estimates for 1921-1922, and "subject to overriding necessities of national finance," an increase of the present grants in aid from £1,000,000 to £1,500,000 will be considered. This Treasury grant will be applicable only to such activities as are clearly of a university character. In general, the object is to secure the present activities of the universities on a sound footing before aid is given towards extensions and developments. The Chancellor authorizes the University Grants Committee, in submitting recommendations for future grants, to take into account, on certain conditions, various elements of new local support provided during the past two years. In addition to the grant-in-aid the Chancellor is prepared to consider the advisability of a further non-recurrent grant to assist the universities in meeting the grievance of those of their senior members who are precluded from benefiting to the full by the universities superannuation scheme.

Before advising as to the distribution of the grant, the Committee will consider the claims of the various institutions and consult with their respective authorities.

The Government's proposals were outlined in the House of Lords on July 21st by the Earl of Crawford. He said that the proposed grant to meet the grievance of senior members in respect of superannuation, expressed the Government's desire to mitigate a real and tremendous personal hardship, with which they fully sympathized. The object of his main announcement, added Lord Crawford, was not merely to help the universities as such but to stimulate the benefactions of others. He expressed a statesmanlike belief in the need for preserving at all costs the special and intimate character of each university. Except in very rare instances he did not think uniformity desirable. In his opinion standardization was not democracy. There should be the greatest variation of methods, and indeed of ideals as well, in university life. The Marquess of Crewe, who followed, did not think the House need be too greatly alarmed by the use of the phrase "overriding financial necessities," which he took to represent the habitual caution proper to the Treasury.

THE Council of the University of Paris has approved of a proposal to grant two new diplomas within the Faculty of Medicine, one in puericulture and the other in radiology and radiotherapeutics.