

LANDMARKS IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION. By Prof. J.Y.Simpson. New York: Doran. 1926. \$2.00.

A valuable and timely contribution to this current and recurrent controversy. The author is Professor of Natural Science in New College, Edinburgh, and he handles both the theological and scientific sides with equal competency and impartiality. He is fairer to the church fathers than Draper or White, and has the advantage in living in a less materialistic century. The numerous footnote references and quotations make the volume a cyclopedia, yet it reads fluently. Here is one of its interesting anecdotes:

"'There are reverent minds,' read Henry Drummond from the proofs of The Ascent of Man to three friends as they sat together in a field under a hedge in Low Glen Cloy in the Island of Arran one day near Eastertide of 1894, 'who ceaselessly scan the fields of Nature and the books of Science in search of gaps - gaps which they will fill up with God. As if God lived in gaps?' Then, looking up for a moment, he added, as if by way of explanation, 'There was a foolish man who wrote a book to show that God existed only in the gaps.' Whereupon one of his listeners remarked, 'But why take notice of him? All that he said will have been forgotten.' To which the answer came, 'Mrs. Whyte, I was that man.'" The reference is, of course, to his earlier work, Natural Law in the Spiritual World.

POISON IVY, by James B. McNair. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.

Dr. McNair has done an excellent job of boiling down into a pamphlet of a dozen pages the essential points covered in his exhaustive book, Rhus Dermatitis. Sufferers from ivy poisoning and summer wood-rovers generally will find this a very handy bit of literature to have about.

THREE MEN DISCUSS RELATIVITY, by J.W.N.Sullivan, New York. Alfred A. Knopf - \$2.50.

Several thousand attempts have been made since 1915 to explain Einstein's theory to the common mind but this is a new way. Mr. Sullivan does not dodge the mathematics as do most of his predecessors, but assuming that his readers have at least "studied mathematics in their youth" he takes them by easy stages into the tangle of tensors and the mazes of non-Euclidian geometry. In his Platonic dialog the three characters, a Philosopher, (who interposes appropriate questions) an Ordinary Intelligent Person, (presumably the reader) and a Mathematical Physicist, (provided with a blackboard) present various aspects of the revolutionary conceptions of relativity.

There are no polar bears, or any other land animals, in the south polar regions, according to the explorer Stefansson.
