

torment at the hands of a celestial Torquemada, he offered the painless return into the infinite alembic of nature.

"Ingersoll tried to destroy belief in all the religious and secular fables of antiquity; he denied that a miracle had ever taken place. In return, he offered the proposition that the universe is governed by an order whose sequences have never been broken, and that all life is part of a regulated system. In place of belief in the efficacy of prayer, Ingersoll gave us self-reliance, knowledge, science; he offered work instead of worship, dignity instead of groveling servility. For the worship of the Bible, which he tried to destroy, he taught that we were to believe in its truth and to reject its errors. In place of the theory that God came upon this earth at Palestine, and that the brutal savage called Jehovah was worthy of worship, Ingersoll gave us the knowledge of natural law and natural processes. In fact, Ingersoll had done so much to help the orthodox church get rid of its cruelties and crudities that it owed him a mighty monument, and ought in this way to acknowledge the aid it had received from him."

REPORTER.

**Charms and Witchcraft.**

The Malay is a firm believer in the efficacy of charms. He wears amulets, places written words of magic in houses, and sports a tiger's claw as a preventive of disease. If he is specially primitive and backwoodsy, when he enters a forest he says, "Go to the right, all my enemies and assailants! May you not look upon me; let me walk alone!" To allay a storm he says, "The elephants collect, they wallow across the sea; go to the right, go to the left, I break the tempest." When about to begin an elephant hunt, according to Thompson, he uses this charm: "The elephant trumpets, he wallows across the lake. The pot boils, the pan boils across the point. Go to the right, go to the left, spirit of grandfather (the elephant); I loose the fingers upon the bowstring."

The Malay believes in witches and witchcraft. There is the bottle imp, the "Polong," which feeds on its owner's blood till the time comes for it to take possession of an enemy. Then there is a horrid thing, the "Penangalan," which possesses women. Frequently it leaves its rightful abode to fly away at night to feed on blood, taking the form of the head and intestines of the person it inhabited, in which shape it wanders around.

Such beliefs may perhaps have their origin in metempsychosis, which in other ways has some foothold among the common people. For instance, elephants and tigers are believed sometimes to be hu-

man souls in disguise, and so the Malay addresses them as "grandfather" to allay their wrath and avoid direct reference to them. Crocodiles also are often regarded as sacred, and special charms are used in fishing for them. One such, given by Maxwell, is as follows: "O Dangsari, lotus flower, receive what I send thee. If thou receivest it not, may thy eyes be torn out!" —[From Malay Folklore, by R. Clyde Ford, in Appletons' Popular Science Monthly for December.

**Woman's Reason.**

Dr. von Holleben, the German ambassador to the United States, was a witness of the quick wit of the German empress which saved a man's life just before the diplomat's return to this country.

At an imperial family banquet in the palace at Potsdam, the doctor and Count Eulenberg, who is mentioned as the next imperial chancellor, were present.

During the first course the count suddenly began to strangle and cough. The emperor sent for the court physician. The count became rapidly worse and it was feared he would choke to death.

The empress, laying aside all considerations of court etiquette, stepped from her seat to the sufferer and pressed her forefinger firmly in his throat. A more violent cough than before then resulted in the expulsion of a fish bone.

"I thought so," said the empress, as she returned to her seat. "I always do that when any of my children swallow a bone."

In emergencies women have often proven themselves superior to men.

On this occasion the men all stood still and looked at the sufferer. The emperor sent for the court physician, though the man might have choked to death before his arrival, while the empress, the only one present with her wits about her, by prompt action saved the man's life.

It is a common saying that "woman's instinct is more than man's reason", but it is quite evident, from many deeds of heroism, that the gift of reason has been vouchsafed to woman also.

E. C. S.

The term Atheism means without Theism, and as Theism, with the exception of Pantheism, affirms duality or plurality of existence, Atheism, being "without Theism", must affirm Monism. This monistic view of existence is the basis of modern science and philosophy. It is consistent and logical, whereas any form of dualism or pluralism is not. The course of Theism from the earliest times has been towards the objective point of the affirmation of Monism, from Polytheism, through Monotheism, to Pantheism. The next step — and the step which is sure to come — is Atheism. —[Sel.

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Prof. Wm. H. Cook, for thirty years Dean of the Cincinnati Physio-Medical College, writes to the author as follows:

"I have examined your book, 'A Physician in the House,' and am much pleased with its contents and tone. Every family should know how to care for the health of the household, which is a human right and duty. Your book gives the information needed and in language the people can readily understand. I congratulate you on not naming the use of any poison, but adhering strictly to the use of non-poisonous remedies—the one true principle that should guide all treatment of disease, and which I have advocated in my practice for forty years or more.

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