

This beautiful piece has probably cost the author less labour than most other parts of the book; yet it will probably live longer, for, sooth to say, the Semitic personages, for all the care with which they are presented, fail to hold our interest permanently. Moreover, the dithyrambic outpourings of the Jewish poets will hardly bear removal even into the comparatively kindred air of historical tragedy.

There is the fine and tender touch of the man of feeling, something of the secret of the Great Physician Himself, in a little passage in Chapter XXIX., where Hadrian, peevish, fretful, and selfish, forgets his own anxieties in the illness of Antinous, and "he who a moment ago was the patient becomes the physician." In the same chapter, and in close connection with this finely-noted incident, we have another lyric, the sweet, grave note of which strikes us as possessing both originality and insight in that degree which separates for good and all the poet from the postaster. We regret that our space does not allow of transcription.

Having aroused the reader's interest by these few remarks, we have gained our object if he is induced to acquaint himself with the course of the story as told by a writer who is able to draw upon so remarkable a store of past history, whether British, Roman, or Jewish. The surprising thing is that he should find time to indulge in historical romance and poetry in addition to his professional, editorial, and other occupations. A story like this is not without its psychology. This we leave the reader to trace in the pages of "The Son of a Star," while for ourselves we must "awake from our vision and turn our faces once more to the world of common life in which we move and have our being."

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*Sanity and Insanity* (with Illustrations). By CHARLES MERCIER, M.B., Lecturer on Insanity at the Westminster Hospital Medical School, and at the Medical School for Women. London: Walter Scott. 1890.

This is the last addition to the "Contemporary Series," so well edited by Havelock Ellis, and it is a very good addition. Dr. Mercier's book may be praised without stint, and will be largely read, we have no doubt. We give it a cordial welcome, and commend it to our readers.