

here asks the Hidden One if there is a purpose (the answer is creativity), but there are also such fine poems as W. K. Rogers' beginning

Mary Madgalene, that easy woman,
Saw, from the shore, the seas
Beat against the hard stone of Lent,
Crying, 'Weep, seas, weep
For yourselves that cannot dent me more.'

Some established writers are included (though none had published anything before the war) whose verse undoubtedly stands out for its sheer competence; but a number of less familiar names indicate a genuine hope for poetry. And it is good to see account taken of the posthumous work of William Bell, which will bear comparison with anything written in our time.

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THE LANGUAGE AND HISTORY OF SPAIN. By J. B. Trend. (Hutchinson's University Library; 8s. 6d.)

This is a sprightly and entertaining account of the development of the Spanish language. It is not intended as a manual for students, but is more like those old-fashioned Victorian books that still delighted one's youth—stray chapters on words and their vagaries. As the title implies, there is a strong lacing of history, and with history some King Charles' Heads. This is not to say that the little book is unsystematic. The author is out of his depth in chapter IX, on biblical translations. *Alma*, on page 136, is not here 'soul', but the transliteration of the Hebrew word variously rendered *moça* or *virgen* in Isaiah 7, 14. (See, e.g., Cruden, s.v. *virgin*; but information is available on the very text in question, the Ferrara Bible.) Nor is there anything in the remarks on 'the last Gospel' on page 137. However, Professor Trend has here gathered an abundance of interesting items of information and is, as always, very amusing to read. His new work can be recommended to undergraduates who are bored (as they too often justifiably are) with philology, but not if they are going to believe him when, in prophetic strain, he writes: 'The future of the Spanish language lies with the twenty Spanish-speaking countries in America'.

E.S.