Religion

This volume is the twenty-fourth edition of a popular book by a scientific man, a book on religion by the director of the Psychological Service Center of New York. As these many editions were issued in a year and a half, the book may fairly be classified as a "best seller." Dr. Link tells how, as a practising psychologist, he found that the greatest lack in the personal development of masses of people consisted precisely in the lack of a purpose, of an ideal, such as religion would give them. Thus, without entering into the philosophical problem of the existence of God, he found the Bible to be the best text-book extant on morality and character development. In his own words: "Psychology differs from all other sciences in this important respect. Whereas the other sciences have taught us that our beliefs about nature were wrong, psychology is proving that many of the ancient ideas and precepts about the development of a good character and personality were right." Dr. Link's own work is in the field of individual psychology, though he works through general means of adaptation and attacks the psychoanalysts with real bitterness. When he applies his ideas, however, to the field of education and of social reform, many of us would differ with him, on the ground that his conclusions do not follow from his personality studies, mental testing, and similar work in an unrelated field. He holds, for example, that education tends to delay character development rather than advance it because it makes the pupil dependent on the teacher. In the same way he objects to extension of government services as making individuals less self-reliant, whereas some of us feel that starvation is more immediate than character development.

—LEE J. LEVINGER.