

A book review by Aleister Crowley from the November 1917 edition of The International.

The Duality of the Bible by Sidney C. Tapp.

The mystery is out. We owe our readers a sort of apology for the tone of voice which we used last month in reviewing Mr. Tapp's other volume. We ought to have known that so unwholesome a mind might imply an unhealthy body. In this present volume Mr. Tapp explains that he suffered when young from certain diseases of the ear, necessitating operations which were evidently partial failures; for we find that he could not write his book with his own hand, owing to a spine injured by these operations.

Mr. Tapp's views on sex are therefore those of an unfortunate rather than of a wicked person. (It may be philosophically doubted whether these two things are not one.) However, the point is that for Mr. Tapp to lay down the law on sex is like an oyster lecturing on the disadvantages of being vertebrate. We are extremely sorry for this wreck of humanity, but we shall not take it for our guide, any more than we should listen to the crew of reformed drunkards who tell us that we cannot drink a glass of wine without being dipsomaniacs. One of the worst results of our present policy of preserving the lives of the abnormal and degenerate is that they have worked their way into public affairs till civilization has become a hospital.