

This treatise brings out clearly and forcibly the profound changes that were taking place in the economic life of the German people in the sixteenth century, in the building up of great trade monopolies; in the absorption of the common lands by the princes, both civil and ecclesiastical, which was accomplished largely by the substitution of Roman law for the ancient legal customs and ideals of the Germans; and in the changed civil and economic status of the lower orders of society. The Peasant's revolt justified itself on the basis of the religious idea promulgated in the Reformation. Against this Luther protested energetically and even vituperatively, as was his wont, because he evidently did not understand the social implications of his own message nor perceive the relation of the movement he was leading to the general movements of the time—a failure which many religious leaders besides Luther have been guilty of. Altogether, the volume is a most interesting study of the social significance of religious movements. The parallelism between the age of the Reformation and our age, both in its religious and economic aspects, is most striking. The study of this book would be of value to every religious leader of the present day.

C. S. GARDNER.

**Divorce. A Study in Social Causation.** By James P. Sichtenberger, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania. Columbia University Press, New York. 1910.

The author has made a thorough-going study of this very important phenomenon of our present-day social life and has given us an illuminating and, in many respects, helpful discussion of the causes and significance of the remarkable increase in the divorce rate. His point of view and method are of course strictly scientific. He gives a good survey of the history of divorce and divorce legislation, both civil and ecclesiastical, with analysis of the statistics of divorce which will prove valuable to those who have not the time nor the inclination to work through the mass of government reports on the subject.

He finds the causes of the general and steady rise of the

divorce rate in the profound changes in the economic life of recent times; in the movement for general social liberation—especially the change effected in the status of women; in the growth of religious liberalism and the weakening of external religious authority; in the development of new standards of sexual morality, especially the increasing insistence upon the same standard of sexual morality for man and woman. The causes are thus seen to lie in the most fundamental movements and tendencies of the age, which accounts for the fact that the divorce rate has steadily risen in the face of the increasing stringency in legislation and the emphatic opposition of the religious organizations.

In his forward look the author is optimistic. The present evils are incidents of a period of remarkably rapid and profound social changes, but on the whole changes toward a higher state of society. The family institution will not be destroyed, but will come forth from the ordeal more firmly established, modified in its structure but more ethical in character, more nearly conformed to the teaching of Jesus, whose "ideal is clear, and toward it has been the whole trend of social evolution".

Ministers generally should read this book, for notwithstanding the difference between the author's point of view and theirs it would help them to a larger understanding of one of the most serious practical problems of our time.

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**Die Heilsarmee (The Salvation Army) ihre Geschichte und ihr Wesen von D. Th. Kolde ord. Prof. der Kirchengeschichte in Erlangen. Zweite, sehr vermehrte Auflage. A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung Nachf. Leipzig. 1899. Pages 204.**

The Salvation Army deserves the careful study of all men who care for the salvation and uplift of men, especially those now wrecked and sunken in sin and vileness. The work which it has done and is now doing is great and blessed. And yet no satisfactory account of its history and its methods and aims has appeared in English, though it arose in England and has