

The Life of Christ. By Rev. G. Robinson Lees, B. A. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. 1920. 451 pp.

This is not a critical study of the Life of Christ, though the author has consulted a few of the best books on the subject. The volume is the result of six years spent by the author in Palestine where he learned the habits of the people today. He is able to give the touch of life to much that is obscure and he has insight into many apparently slight details by reason of his knowledge of the land and the people. The book is not a reconstruction in criticism or in discovery, but a vivid presentation of the Gospel story by one who has caught something of the standpoint of those among whom Jesus lived. There are sixty-three full page illustrations that add greatly to the charm of the volume. One of these pictures (opposite Page 43) depicts the Baptist standing on a rock with Jesus on the water, though the author himself properly describes the baptism as immersion. The pictures are striking but are not always true to life as when the disciples are seated at table instead of reclining. But it is a useful book in many ways. The style is good and the spirit reverent.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

Four Hitherto Unpublished Gospels. By William E. Barton, author of "The Soul of Abraham Lincoln," "Jesus of Nazareth," "The Psalms and Their Story," etc., etc. George H. Doran Company, New York. 1920. 149 pp.

The title page gives the reader the further clew that this is "A Series of Character Studies Cast in the Form of Personal Memoirs of *John the Baptist, Andrew the Brother of Simon Peter, Judas Iscariot, James the Brother of Jesus.*"

One feels an instinctive revulsion against an author's calling such hypothetical studies *Gospels* as if to put them in the category with the canonical Gospels, nor is this feeling ever quite overcome even when one has followed every word through to the end of the illuminating character studies. Moreover, the aim

and type of writings in these "*Gospels*" are so very different from our Gospels that they are not properly characterized by the same title. In *the* Gospels the authors are of no consequence as such and the Christ is everything. In *these* Gospels the author is the subject, speaks in the first person and is all the time analyzing his own experience and critically reviewing his Lord and his relations to Him.

The pictures are made up mainly of the Biblical material and utilize this with marked skill, howbeit with some singular omissions and anachronistic allusions. Judas Iscariot, for example, is made to criticise the "lists of the apostles," while Andrew is represented as resenting some quite modern and rather stupid criticisms of him. Again, James defends his theory of Christianity against Paul's in a way that is too much of our own day. In Andrew's case it was overlooked at a point where the situation called for using it, that he and Philip introduced "the Greeks" to Jesus, in John XI. All four of our present evangelists have an element of personal pride and ambition that lead to a certain querulousness and dissatisfaction that we must recognize as justified to a certain extent, but would like to think Dr. Barton has overdone.

The views of the four men in these character sketches are vivid, suggestive and mainly faithful to the records. One fancies, however, that the originator of the sketches is reflecting himself in certain aspects even more truly than his subjects.

W. O. CARVER.

III. HISTORY.

Renaissance and Reformation. Revised Edition. By Edward Maslin Huline, Professor of History in University of Idaho. Century Company, New York. 1917. 629 pp.

This is a remarkably stimulating book on one of the most important periods in history. The book is based on the "Outlines of the Renaissance and the Reformation," by Prof. Geo.