

be no more important study for men to-day, the author suggests, than that undertaken here. Ideas on the subject need yet to be formulated, tested, examined, and it may be re-examined, until a definite consistent idea has been reached. To help in this good work is the purpose of these pages. It falls in with the prevailing desire to systematize and rationalize the lines and method of Christian work, which, the author believes, has in it an element of great value. The treatment is sane, the style clear and the booklet, we are sure, will prove helpful to every thoughtful reader.

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The Form of Baptism in Sculpture and Art.

By John T. Christian, A. M., D.D., LL.D., Louisville, Ky., Baptist Book Concern. 1907. Pp. 250.

The value of Christian art in determining the original form of baptism is not very great. The earliest pictures are probably as late as the fourth century and their interpretation is in dispute. The difficulty of presenting the form of baptism in a picture, especially if the form was immersion, the fact that most of these old pictures have been restored and other considerations make the results of study in this direction exceedingly meager. But those who practice affusion have claimed strong support in these early monuments, and this makes it necessary for the Baptists to consider the matter even for the negative results that accrue.

Dr. Christian has searched diligently and brought together in brief space cuts of many of the most notable baptismal scenes of the early centuries, together with expert opinions favorable to the Baptist position from a variety of sources published and unpublished. These pictures are interesting, but cannot be accepted as representing apostolic baptism. The fact is they do not seem to support the present Baptist practice much more than the practice of affusion. The person being baptized is usually nude and standing in the water up to the breast; the administrator is uniformly not in the water and therefore unable to immerse as Baptists do; in several pictures presented the candidate is in a large kettlelike vessel in which an immersion such as is practiced by Baptists is impossible. Not

one represents the modern Baptist practice as it seems to the reviewer. A partial immersion is certain in all cases and a complete immersion seems highly probable. But it must have been an immersion by bending the head beneath the water rather than the modern Baptist practice. There is not a single picture that represents the baptism of Acts 8:38 where "they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him". While we correct the claims of others, let us Baptists not claim too much from these pictures ourselves. The New Testament is our standard. These pictures certainly represent a practice very different from present-day sprinkling and pouring; but the immersion which they represent is different from the immersion practiced by the Baptists today. This seems equally certain. W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

Proceedings of the Baptist Congress at Baltimore, Md.

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The speakers who dealt with such living topics as "The Virgin Birth", "The Church and the Wage Earner", "The Organic Union of Baptists, Free Baptists and Disciples of Christ", "The Ethics of Present Day Fiction", and "Fear in Religion", in the late session of the Baptist Congress, are here given larger audience. The interest for those of a theologic turn of mind will probably center in the discussion of the Virgin Birth, opened by Dr. George H. Ferris, of Philadelphia, and further discussed by Prof. F. L. Anderson, of Newton Center, Mass.; Dr. J. W. Phillips, of Binghamton, N. Y., and Prof. John R. Slater, Ph.D., of Rochester, N. Y. The questions of the documentary basis, the mythical theory of the narratives, and whether the doctrine is essential to the Christian faith are all dealt with in a frank and fearless way, and with sufficient liveliness, learning and force to have compelled a hearing, we are sure, and to repay careful reading. Many intelligent laymen and students of sociological and industrial problems will find chief interest in the discussion of the church and the wage earner, by J. E. Sagebeer, Ph.D., of Philadelphia, Edward Holyoke, D.D., of Providence, R. I., George