

officers and members of its entire history as far as that is now obtainable, cuts of many of its officials, and two historical appendixes. The whole was done under the supervision of Dr. King, who was long the pastor of the church and is deeply versed in its history. Such a work is of great value for future historians of the Baptists, and the church is to be heartily commended for its liberality and public spirit in publishing this volume. It is to be hoped that many other of our historic churches will follow this example.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

### III. PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION.

**The Sense of the Infinite.** A Study of the Transcendental Element in Literature, Life and Religion. By Oscar Kuhns, author of *The German and Swiss Settlements in Pennsylvania*, *Dante and the English Poets*, etc. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1908. Pages vii+265. Price \$1.50 net.

The author defines broadly and rather vaguely the Sense of the Infinite so as to include all forms and phases of conscious recognition of the unity of the universe and all striving after fellowship in spirit, or oneness in experience with the Infinite. "The sense of the Infinite, the transcendental sense, then, does exist," and exists for all men who will open up the avenues of the soul through which the spirit goes out after the Eternal and through which the Infinite comes in to claim as its due the finite spirit. Nature, romantic love and religion are the great spheres in which the soul of man becomes conscious and enamored of the Infinite. Philosophy, poetry, and mysticism, then, are the forms of its expression. "The great saviours of the higher life are those who have drunk deep at this spring" of a strong and beautiful love which many waters cannot drown and which holds its objects "now and forever."

"It is the transcendental or the mystical sense, the sense of the Infinite, Idealism, call it what you will, that gives to life its glory and dignity. It gives an added sense of beauty to the world in which we live; it tends to deepen our spiritual experi-

ence; it makes us an instrument of good to our fellow-men; above all it gives us that peace for which the whole world is seeking." "The poets are its interpreters; the artist is its handiworkman, \* \* \* prophet and preacher lift aside the veil that hangs before us and we see the radiant and flashing beauty of the eternal world." "And the instinct is far more widely prevalent than appears at first sight. It is sleeping in the heart of the multitude, crowded back by the insistent cares of daily life, by trivial amusements, by political and social ambitions, by the eager pursuit of wealth and fame. But let a great poet arise, or a great preacher, and we see thousands, like children held by a tale of fairyland, listening with hushed spirit to his words, which have power to draw aside the veil which intervenes between the temporal and the eternal world."

Our author traces the working of this sense through the transcendental view of nature, in romantic love, in the philosophy of Plato and Plotinus and the various forms of Platonic philosophy; through mysticism all along the centuries down to our own time, where it is finding scientific recognition in many ways and in many quarters. Every man needs occasionally to call himself back, or forward, to clearer contemplation of his divine relationship, and this is a good book for such purpose.

W. O. CARVER.

**The Naturalization of the Supernatural.** By Frank Podmore, author of *Modern Spiritualism—A History and a Criticism*, *Studies in Psychical Research*, etc. Illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London; The Knickerbocker Press, 1908.

Mr. Podmore's book of nearly 400 pages is at once an exposure and an exposition. He is a scholarly materialist whose conclusions, he claims, are those of science. He gives us in his *Introductory* a brief history of the founding of the Society for Psychical Research, and sets forth its aims and methods, subjects to be investigated, telepathy or thought-transference, etc. Then, after tracing in a lucid and trenchant style the history of various spiritualist movements, he gives some startling exposures and explanations of certain of the ghost stories which