

ders a passage with an abruptness that might not please some people. His purpose evidently is to arrest attention and try to bring people as nearly as possible to hear the voice of the Spirit of God.

The price of the book is very low. It has come from the press at a very opportune time when we are studying the book of Acts in the International Sunday School lessons. Those who are wise will take the hint; those who are otherwise will miss a treasure that is worth while.

What an inspiration it is to read such a book as this and then to reflect that every true believer and humble worker for the Lord is in the best sense in direct line of apostolic succession.

The last sentence of comment is this: "This 'Gospel of the Holy Spirit' came to its end here, but went forth as a gospel from then till the end of time, from there to the ends of the earth." Who is not grateful that he can still have a part in carrying on to completion what God has so well begun in Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, and in those who have labored in the Lord through the centuries? "Other men have labored and ye are entered into their labors."

Wake Forest, N. C.

W. R. CULLOM.

II. CHURCH HISTORY.

The Works of John Smyth, Fellow of Christ's College, 1594-8. Tercentenary Edition for the Baptist Historical Society, with notes and Biography by W. T. Whitley, M.A., LL.D., F. R. Hist. S., Sometime Exhibitioner of King's College. Cambridge University Press, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1915. Two vols. \$10.00.

More and more we are learning that John Smyth, the "Se-Baptist" as Dexter called him, was one of the ablest and most important characters in the history of early English non-conformity. Dexter was the first to give us any very clear and definite view of the man; his presentation was being filled out and made clearer by Shakespeare, Burgess and Burrage. Dr. Whitley has now put the capstone on recent investigation by giving this edition of his works. It is the most important con-

tribution which has ever been made to the life of Smyth. Dr. Whitley's intensive study of the history of English Baptists and his position as secretary of the Baptist Historical Society fitted him in a peculiar degree to perform this side of his task. Moreover his knowledge of the general religious history of England and of Cambridge University at this period has enabled him to produce a remarkably clear and helpful background.

The biographical portion covers 106 pages of the first volume. In this Dr. Whitley has filled out the meager facts of Smyth's life with much interesting history of his times and environment, and has shown the probabilities of Smyth's life in a most interesting and helpful way. The detailed history of the university life of that time will doubtless have more interest for English than for most American readers. Certain it is that Dr. Whitley has given us, in a clear and attractive form, all that can now be known of Smyth. Further investigation will probably not yield much more of value.

But the most valuable part of the work for the historian as well as for the general reader is the reproduction of Smyth's works. Few copies, very few, of Smyth's works have been preserved, and are quite inaccessible to American scholars. The work of reproduction has evidently been carefully done,—form, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc., being preserved as in the original. This volume thus brings to the hands of the scholar and general reader alike the works of the first scholarly representative of the English Baptist movement.

It is true that he was an Arminian or Pelagian and was not followed in his theological views of human nature by the majority of later Baptists. It is also true that he became dissatisfied with his action and sought membership among the Mennonites. Notwithstanding these facts he was a figure of first importance in the history of non-conformity and of the English Baptists in particular.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

Early Methodists under Persecution. By Josiah Henry Barr. The Methodist Book Concern, New York, 1916. 256 pp. \$1.25.

The author of this work has diligently searched Methodist literature for cases of persecution directed against the early