

III. THEOLOGY AND APOLOGETICS.

Modern Theology and the Preaching of the Gospel. By William Adams Brown. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1914. ix+274 pp. \$1.25 net.

The contribution of modern theology to the equipment of the preacher is fourfold: 1. The discovery that religion is one of the ultimate facts of life; 2. That all religion is not equally valuable or satisfying; 3. That if there is to be a final religion it must be Christianity; 4. A renewed emphasis upon Christ as the centre and norm of Christianity.

The Bible has undergone many changes in men's thoughts as a result of historical criticism, but it is still the infallible guide to the truth we need to know for our salvation if we use it aright. The Holy Spirit is the light and Jesus Christ the path which we are to follow in order to understand the Bible. The Bible is the source of our faith and the standard for our spiritual life.

Men need an object of worship and a source of help. God meets both of these needs. The God of modern theology is not an arbitrary God. He does not act without good reason. He is interested in all classes and conditions of men. He is a God of righteousness and of love. Modern theology recognizes miracles in God's dealings. They are new beginnings wrought by God for spiritual ends. Prayer is the most familiar example of God's creative activity at present.

Modern theology says we are saved from unchristlikeness which is selfishness, and not simply from future punishment. We are saved to christlikeness which is saviourhood. To be saved is to desire to save others.

Modern theology emphasizes the human side of Jesus but does not deny the divine. It finds in him the revelation of God, God present in power to save men. The best and most convincing proof of the deity of Christ is his saving work known in Christian experience and the complete proof of Christ's divinity will be when all men know him in his saving work.

The above is a very brief outline of a very interesting discussion by a man who knows thoroughly the old and has deep sympathy with modern theology. The last chapter is devoted to the subject, *The Church: Its Present Opportunity and Duty*. The title suggests greater divergence from the older views than is found in the book itself. There is no adequate recognition of the guilt-consciousness of the sinner nor of regeneration by the Holy Spirit. The discussion will be very helpful to those who seek to know the ways in which modern theology is changing the emphasis in doctrinal teaching. E. Y. MULLINS.

New Proofs of the Soul's Existence. By S. S. Hibberd. Sherman, French & Co., Boston. 1914. \$1.00 net.

The argument begins with a discussion of the idea of a perfect cause, and proceeds to prove God's existence by showing that as the perfect cause He is possessed of infinitude, unity, rationality, and power of self-limitation for the sake of others. Conceptions of causation on any lower level come short of the proper idea of a perfect cause. The existence of the human soul is proved by showing that it is (1) an agent unifying the flux of thought and feeling; (2) as an activity in polar contrast with that of the mere body; (3) as a free cause, finite indeed, but still closely akin to the divine. Immortality follows since the soul is a "perfect unit and unifying agency," that death cannot affect it. The author states that the mysteries of the relation between matter and mind all concern their union in this life not their separation in the life to come. This conclusion while containing truth is an overstatement. One of the best features of the discussion is the treatment of the idea of causation, an idea which, through much mental confusion among moderns, has led to endless difficulties and often needless debates. The best and final proof of immortality is the power of the immortal life in Christ at work in the soul. But efforts to prove immortality on the plane of the natural reason will always afford a field for intellectual effort. This booklet is well worth reading by all students of the subject. E. Y. MULLINS.