

Manual of Early Ecclesiastical History to 476 A. D. By Chas. L. Wells, Ph.D. University Press, Sewanee, Tenn. 1912. 259 pages.

This volume is one in the "Sewanee Theological Library," "intended to provide for the clergy and laity of the Church a statement, in convenient form, of its Doctrine, Discipline and Worship. The "Church" to which reference is here made is the American Episcopal Church. The purpose of the book is, therefore, distinctly practical and ecclesiastical, its primary object being to serve a special need of one denomination. As would be expected it does not show the usual freedom of unhampered scholarship, taking the position, for example, that infant baptism and the three orders of the ministry existed from the very beginning of Christianity. The arguments adduced in support of the three orders of the clergy are ludicrous.

But when this stricture has been made it must be said that the book is a very valuable compendium for its purpose. It manifests genuine scholarship, and as much freedom as would reasonably be expected under the circumstances. Topics are treated with a clearness, orderliness and fulness that make the volume highly interesting and valuable to the classes for which it was intended. Carefully considered references to much of the best recent literature of the subjects treated add a feature of worth even for those who are already well acquainted with the theme.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

The Political Activities of the Baptists and Fifth Monarchy Men in England During the Interregnum. By Louise Fargo Brown, Ph.D., Instructor in History in Wellesley College. Oxford University Press. 1912. 258 pages.

This work won the prize of the American Historical Association for 1911, which is high endorsement of its merits. It covers the period from the death of Charles I to the Restoration under Charles II, 1649 to 1660. These were notable years in the history of the English Baptists. For this brief period they were probably more influential in the public life of England than at any time since. For ten years they had multiplied rap-