

cided to write one covering the field and showing Protestantism as it is today. The purpose that guided him was to meet the need of the ordinary reader rather than of experts, but he has put into an appendix much valuable evidential material to which more thoughtful readers may resort in making further investigations. Dr. Hobson is convinced and makes reasonably clear that, while the name Protestant is a monument to an act of yesterday, the Protestantism of today taken in its broadest sense is alive with positive elements of power for the present and of promise for the future. He shows in a convincing way the growing unity and co-operation of Protestant denominations in practical works for the Kingdom of God. He points out that, in this gravest crisis of modern times, when values have been undergoing the sternest trial in the crucible of this world war, the harmony of Protestantism with the drift of modern life and institutions has been maintained, and he sees good reason to hope that with the survival of civic and religious freedom, democracy and science, Protestantism in its best sense and values will remain and continue to develop.

GEO. B. EAGER.

**The Manual of Inter-Church Work.** Introduction by Mr. Fred B. Smith; edited by Rev. Roy B. Guild. Published by the Commission on Inter-Church Federations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. New York, 1917. xv--221 pp. \$1.00.

**The Progress of Church Federation.** By Charles S. MacFarland, General Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. New York, 1917, Fleming H. Revell Company. 191 pp. \$1.00 net.

Here are two volumes that every modern minister and active layman ought to get. From them one gets authoritative accounts of the history, the aims, the methods and the plans of the Federal Council. By study of these books the ideas of church federation are brought down out of the hazy cloud realm in which for very many they still float and take on concrete, intelligent form. One can find out just what the Federation is. That might interfere somewhat with the freedom of speech of some critics and of some advocates of the Federation, but it would conduce to saneness and practical speech on the part of both critic and enthusiast.

Dr. MacFarland has put into handy form the history of the inception and growth of this movement into an organization and then an account of its activities. He thus makes available the gist of the mat-

ter in the six volumes of the Library of Christian Co-operation which most men would not find time to read.

*The Manual* is the result of the **Congress on the Purpose and Methods of Inter-Church Federations**, at Pittsburgh last October. Commissions had been appointed months beforehand and submitted reports on Church Comity, Community Evangelism, Home, and Foreign Missions, Social Service, Religious Education, International Justice and Good Will, Religious Publicity, Principles and Methods of Organization, Wartime, Local, Inter-church Work.

These reports deal with actual results and with plans and principles looking to the great extension of these results.

It is not needful here to enter upon any discussion of the Federation. It is desirable that all intelligent church men should study the facts and the theories. Such men will welcome this brief, handy material for such study. It is a time when more than ever before many are asking what shall we do to make Christianity more powerful in our national life and in our world life. Some settle it off-hand by saying, Do what we have been doing, as we have been doing it, only more zealously. Others say, Abandon old methods and start all over again. Some say, Let us take a sober and studious look at matters, see and then do.

W. O. CARVER.

**Romance of Christian Experience.** By Samuel Judson Porter, Pastor First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, 1918. 220 pp. \$1.25 net.

The above title would scarcely indicate that this book is composed of fifteen vigorous, brightly written sermons of various length and merit. These are not merely written sermons but have been preached by the author. In sermons II and III, "Christ and Personality" and "Christ's Answer to the Quest for God", respectively, the author appears at his best. Dr. Porter is a scholar of ability and a pastor "par excellence". He has been signally blessed in some of the foremost pulpits of his denomination. In this volume we have the cream of his thinking, seasoned by his noble living. His logical mind leads at times to weariness of detail, and often there seems to be a straining after elegance, yet one recognizes throughout the throb of the shepherd heart. His illustrations are rich and wisely chosen. He gives to Christian experience a just and lofty place. He makes the life of service and sacrifice attractive and stimulates pure resolve and Christian growth. The book is worthy of a wide reading. Its value will consist not so much in its contribution to sermonic literature as in its helpfulness to every-day Christian living.

F. M. POWELL.