

**What Can I Know? An Inquiry Into Truth, Its Nature, the Means of Its Attainment, and Its Relations to the Practical Life.** By George Trumbull Ladd, LL.D. Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1914. vii+311 pp. \$1.50 net.

The sub-title clearly sets forth the clear-cut, comprehensive method of dealing with this subject, so primary in its importance in an age when so much philosophy assumes the ability to get on without an epistemology, when it does not positively deny the validity of the search for truth.

Dr. Ladd brings to us his usual clear thinking, firm conviction and lucid language. The distinction between mathematical truth, of abstract relations; and moral truth, of reality and vital relations, is clearly apprehended.

The various sources of certainty and uncertainty are discussed with incisiveness and frankness. The part played in knowing by attitude, disposition, "the will to believe" are especially recognized. After all a man can really know only as he desires to do. It is the men who know in experience that make the world's progress. "Can a Man Know God?" is the final question. The answer will be unsatisfactory to many. Abstractly and dialectically we can know Him far less than has often been affirmed, but practically and reverently we may know God. The author does not come upon it quite so distinctly as does Jesus, but he approaches the idea that "the pure in heart shall see God." The work is much needed in this time of pragmatic superficiality which has succeeded the age of "Agnosticism."

W. O. CARVER.

**The Christian Life in the Modern World.** By Francis Greenwood Peabody, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals (Emeritus) in Harvard University. New York, 1914. The Macmillan Company. 234 pp. \$1.25 net.

One could wish that every earnest man and woman of our generation would read such a book as this. Without blinking, with almost overdrawn emphasis, the author recognizes the

tendency of the age to ignore, when it does not reject and despise the teachings and the claims of Christianity. Then with the calm insistence of definite conviction and the clear statement of genuine thought he shows the necessity for the Christian principle, clearly apprehended and loyally applied, to the salvation of the modern world in its family, its business, its making and using of money, its social-civic development and finally its church. The Christian life is the true life. The church does not fully express it and today often stands in its way. But the church, too, must be saved by the Christian life within it. It is in dealing with this last topic that the work is least satisfactory. It does not take sufficiently into account the basal relation of the church to the life of Christianity. The discussion of the socialistic movement is very clear and suggestive of the true principles involved. It is a stimulating book for the hour. It will help many to get their bearings in a day when the majority wander.

W. O. CARVER.

**Science and Religion; The Rational and the Super-rational.** By Cassius J. Keyser, Ph.D., LL.D., Adrian Professor of Mathematics in Columbia University. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1914. 75 pp. 75 cts. prepaid.

In this address, delivered last May before the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni in New York, one meets a novel and highly suggestive argument for the reality and necessity for the infinite spiritual life. The argument is mathematical in form and deals with ideal definitions in its content. At first on the basis of the assumed perfectibility of human knowledge the author refutes the idea that religion, as essentially dependent on human ignorance, can be outgrown. Then denying both these assumptions he proceeds to a new argument for God's reality, which uses the ideas of indefinite approaches to infinity, and of classification as implying a comprehending class, or concept. It is a unique argument that will greatly fascinate those who are inter-