

The Ifs of History.

By Joseph Edgar Chamberlin. Henry Altemus Co., Philadelphia. Pages 203.

The purpose of the author seems to be to show that all that is best in our Western civilization—religion, freedom, character—is the result of a series of historical accidents upon which the most tremendous issues turned. If the Persians had defeated the Greeks at Salamis, Mithra would now be the god of the Europeans; if the Mohammedans had defeated Charles Martel at Tours, Europe would now be Mohammedan; and so with other features of our Western civilization. Nothing can be more idle and futile than such speculations. The author thinks his suggestions will affect the stern necessity of the evolutionary conception of history. But it is as absurdly extreme as that view and will do nothing to affect it. Such a view of history utterly ignores the great forces that move in society and are not turned back or aside by trifling incidents. Defeat at Tours would not have been the annihilation of the Christians or the exhaustion of their resources or powers of resistance. Beyond question there are contingencies in history, but there are also mighty forces that are not accidentally overcome, great streams that are not deflected or dammed by a pebble. The suggestions are stimulating, but they cannot be accepted for a moment.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

The English Reformation and Puritanism with other Lectures and Addresses.

By Eri B. Hulbert, D.D., LL.D. A memorial edited by A. R. E. Wyant, Ph. D. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1908. Price \$2.50 net. Pages 484.

Dr. Hulbert wrote no books. His colleagues say he could not be brought to write, believing that his work was in the class-room and the building up of institutions rather than in writing books. It is in a way refreshing to find a real scholar who has courage to resist the tacit demand that a scholar shall write books, courage to give himself unreservedly to the work of teaching. His renunciation, if renunciation it was, had its rewards. By all accounts he was a teacher of marvelous attractiveness and power, holding the undivided attention and