

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

stirring the noblest and deepest emotions of his students. He did not devote himself to minute investigations in original sources, but gathering his material from expert investigators who had gone before him, he conceived the historical situation vitally and vividly and presented it so clearly and accurately, so rhetorically, almost oratorically, that students could be arrested and impressed. These papers prepared for the most part from his notes, reveal all these qualities. There is a splendid indignation at all wrong, error, hypocrisy, splendid faith in and enthusiasm for the noble, self-sacrificing, faithful. Along with the lectures on the English Reformation are papers of appreciation by various persons, and some additional papers by Dr. Hulbert on such subjects as the Education Act of 1902, Baptists of Today in Great Britain and Ireland, The Baptist Outlook, etc. The whole is printed and bound in such a substantial and tasteful manner as to make a very worthy memorial volume. If one wants to know how interesting and stimulating Church History can be made let him read this volume.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

The Life of Edward Henry Bickersteth, D.D., Bishop and Poet.

By Francis Keyes Aglionby, M. A., Vicar of Christ Church, Westminster. Longmans, Green & Co., London and New York, 1907. Pages 222.

Mr. Aglionby was one of the examining chaplains of Bishop Bickersteth and had ample opportunity to know the real life of the author of "Peace, Perfect Peace", "Yesterday, Today, and Forever". The volume is marked by intelligent and skillful use of the materials, and original sources are quoted wherever possible. The result is a sympathetic and worthy memorial of the Christian poet, for it is by that his name will last. He was a noble Bishop at Exeter, but there have been bishops in plenty. It is not an eventful life that is here recorded, but one worth recording none the less for its normal development in culture and grace and the highest service. The poet lived his poetry and that is much to know. The pictures of the man and places of work give added interest to the volume.

A. T. ROBERTSON.