

BOOK REVIEWS

I. CHURCH HISTORY.

The Evolution of Infant Baptism and Related Ideas. By T. Vincent Tymms, D.D. Pages, 502. 6/. The Kingsgate Press, 4 Southampton Row, London.

The ex-President of the Northern Baptist Education Society is devoting his leisure to elaborating some of his studies, and he has now dealt with a theme untouched on this scale since the days of Dr. Wall. He reviews the teachings of the first four centuries, and shows how a New Theology arose in Africa, and how it brought along with it a new practice, both upheld by the great authority of Augustine, and spreading all over Christian Europe. The idea is not new, to run over the early period and examine its teachings and customs, but Dr. Tymms thinks that most recent students have contented themselves with quoting scraps, which out of their setting are hardly intelligible, or do not give a fair idea of what the writer held.

Within the last few years, moreover, fresh material has been made available, in the so-called "Teaching of the Twelve Apostles," the Apology of Aristides, the Paulician Key of Truth; and the body of evidence is put fully and fairly for all to judge. It is clearer than ever that Infant Baptism became popular owing to the belief that sin and guilt were inherited even by the babe unborn, and to the belief that the ceremony of baptism freed from both and rendered perfectly pure and spotless. Such teachings were not given in the East, but were due to Africa, and their rise is given with care, the good and the evil being distinguished. Specially acute is the criticism as to the confusion between the power to will and the power to do, which vitiates so much argument as to free-will. It is shown that the historic Infant Baptism is the corollary of Baptismal Regeneration; and no remarks are made on the rite as practiced in modern evangelical churches, which disown that doctrine.

The book has evidently swollen beyond the author's expectations, and he has retrenched so vigorously that there is no index nor analytical table of contents nor summary. But whoever will read it faithfully, will have a clear view of the forces which deflected the churches from the path of truth.

W. T. WHITLEY.

Lollardy and the Reformation in England: An Historical Survey.
By James Gairdner, C.B. Vol. III. Macmillan, N. Y., 1911. \$3.50 net.
Pages, 414.

Few recent historical works have provoked more unfavorable criticism than the first two volumes of this work have done. The prejudice of the author against the Protestant Reformation is obvious on every page. It is impossible for him to be fair. This prejudice has led him to overlook or neglect or wrongly interpret numerous documents whose contents were unfavorable to his thesis. So severe has been the criticism of the former volumes that the author devotes the long introduction of this third volume to an acknowledgement of his errors and the wrong impression made by them. He also encloses numerous loose pages which are to replace pages in the previous volumes which he desires to suppress. This humiliating necessity has made the author more careful in this third volume, but his violent prejudices against the Reformation are still obvious.

This third volume is devoted to the reign of Edward VI. It was the crucial period in some respects in the history of the Reformation. The very prejudices of the author have led him to explore and set forth the contents of much material which has too often been neglected by Protestant historians. Numerous extracts from letters and other documents favorable to the Catholic side give to the volume considerable value as a source book. Moreover, it aids one in seeing the side of the conservatives who were clinging to the old Church and opposing innovations and changes. It is always well to understand the man who opposes you. This book is a very bad one to follow blindly, but a good one to use judiciously for its standpoint and material.

W. J. McGLATHLIN.