

is one of the best known and most popular advocates and interpreters of Modern Missions. The subjects here treated have been treated by him in previous volumes and there is here little new from him, except in the matters touching Mohammedanism and missions in the Nearer East, to which are devoted six of the eighteen chapters.

The relation to missions of diplomacy, commerce, colonization and national evolution are some topics of great interest.

Of especial interest is a chapter on "The Hymnody of Modern Missions."

The wide range of topics, the clear and vigorous discussion and the wide range of the author's investigations make the volume one of distinct value to agents and advocates of this great enterprise.

W. O. CARVER.

The Soul of India: A Study of Hindu Religion in Its Historical Setting and Development, and Its Internal and Historical Relations to Christianity. By George Howells, Principal of Serampore College. The Kingsgate Press. 5 shillings, net.

Many a pioneer is discouraged as he gropes his way through the jungle. If he has the patience to win through, blazing the true track, and the perseverance to return and widen the path, all his successors will call him blessed. Now Dr. Howells found when he tried to equip himself for missionary work in India, that an understanding of the land, the people, the religion, had to be painfully acquired, both by residence and by prolonged study of many books in many languages. He has distilled the result into 644 pages of wonderful value, which will save every future missionary to the Hindus possible years of misdirected energy, and will give any intelligent reader some conception of the kind of work that has to be done, and the success already achieved. He sets forth how the Aryan invaders brought the first religion to India which rose above mere animism, and has left literary traces. He shows how just before Alexander, Chandragupta unified the land and reigned over a great empire from Patna. He tells how the first native "religion," Buddhism,

was patronized by Asoka and had its palmy days from 272 B.C. to 375 A.D. He depicts the elaboration of Sanskrit and the rise of the Brahmans towards an empire of thought, and shows how Sankara worked out a philosophy which spread over all India, for the first time leavening the Dekkan. He acknowledges the price paid for this, the compromise with countless degrading local cults, the extension of "caste" from four leading divisions to what were lately 2378 social classes, each in a watertight compartment. He tells how when Buddhism was extinct, new reforms came; from the outside the Muslims with a new state religion, from the south such leaders as Ramananda who appealed again to the people in their own spoken tongues. And finally he sketches the result of European civilization for the last two centuries. On this foundation Dr. Howells builds such original work as may be expected from a graduate of five universities. The account given of the evolution of religion and philosophy is most lucid; the comparative study of Hinduism and Christianity brings out first the common ground, and then the defects of Hinduism, in a way that will enable a missionary to see the sympathetic mode of approach; specimen dialogues with a villager and with an educated Hindu are most illuminating. Finally he studies the historical contact of the two religions. His conclusion that the Bhagavad Gita, whose limits of date are 200 B.C. and 200 A.D., shows a general knowledge of the apostolic preaching, and a literary acquaintance with the fourth gospel, has implications for other than missionaries. And it will be news to many that the great reforms of Taloi Das and others of his school, were inspired by contact with the Christians of St. Thomas in the south. He quotes the French estimate of the result of Roman missions, that for sixty years before 1823 not one single proselyte had been made. His own view of Protestant missions is that the first century of voluntary effort yielded fourfold the result of a century of Catholic state-aided work; that the lower classes are most accessible, that the upper are well leavened. His last pages have counsels for every class; he begs the home supporters to lengthen the ropes and not keep the missionaries dangling in the air, and he warns against mushroom

organizations which cannot deliver the goods. The book deserves the closest study of every embryo missionary—or pastor.

W. T. WHITLEY.

The Call of India: A Study in Conditions, Methods and Opportunities of Missionary Work Among Hindus. By the Rev. Edgar W. Thompson, M.A., author of "A History of India," etc. London, 1912. The Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. xv+319 pages. 1/6 net.

This little volume in the mission study series of the British Wesleyans is truly a *multum in parvo*. The author is a gifted and experienced writer and has not only crowded a deal of information on all essential phases of the Hindu people and religion into his book, but has done it with an attractiveness of literary style quite unusual in the mission study books.

This work ought to have a reading quite beyond the limited circle for which it was primarily written. The work undertakes to treat of Hinduism alone of the religions of India.

W. O. CARVER.

Lotus Buds. By Amy Wilson-Carmichael, Keswick Missionary G. E. Z. M. S., author of "Things as They Are," "Overweights of Joy," "The Beginning of a Story," etc.; with fifty halftone illustrations from photos specially taken for this work. George H. Doran Company, New York, 1912. 340 pages. \$2.00 net.

This edition places within reach of people of more moderate means this delightfully original and widely useful work, heretofore published only in limited, exclusive editions at a necessarily high price. The author won instant recognition with her first work and is long since past the need of a reviewer's praise. We need only express our gratitude that this work is now accessible to all who love children and missions; for the Lotus Buds are the little girls of South India rescued from the shame of heathen temples.

W. O. CARVER.

Planting the Outposts: Thirty-five Years Among the Children of the Plains. By Robert Frederick Sulzer, District Superintendent of Pres-