chapters have been added, one on the Byzantine Empire and the other on the constitution of the present German Empire. Here and there the work has been somewhat enlarged and the whole has been brought into accord with the present state of historical knowledge. The book has long been an indispensable guide to the history of the Middle Ages, and its value has been greatly enhanced by the revision.

W. J. McGLATHLIN.

V. SOCIOLOGY.

A History of Matrimonial Institutions. Chiefly in England and the United States with an introductory analysis of the literature and the theories of primitive marriage and the family.

By George Elliott Howard, Ph. D. The University of Chicago Press. 1904. Three vols. Price \$10.50.

Perhaps no question is of more vital concern to the interests of morality and religion than the preservation of the family. The family is universally recognized as the great conservator of all that is highest and best in human life, ranking next to the Christian religion in this respect. Every man who loves his kind and loves his country must be interested in everything that affects the purity of married life and the sanctity of the marriage relation. The legal confusion in the United States on the subject of marriage and the laxness of marriage and divorce laws have long been matters of grave concern among the better classes of our people. The divorce evil seems to be growing. The strictness of marriage and divorce laws in one state is nullified by the laxness in an adjoining one. What we need first of all in our confusion and uncertainty is information, knowledge of what Anglo-Saxons have done along these lines. This information we have in abundance in the work of Professor Howard. It is the fruit of many years of labor and shows wide reading and investigation. These three substantial volumes contain an astonishing amount of information on

all phases of marriage and divorce. In Part I. the author treats the various theories of the primitive prehistoric BAPTIST EXPOSITOR—Galley 36

family, the rise of the marriage contract and the early history of divorce. In this section he has relied almost wholly upon the investigation and opinions of others, and the pages are loaded down with quotations. And while there is much curious information and brilliant speculation, this part does not contribute greatly to the practical value of the book.

In Part II. the matrimonial institutions of England are treated, including the rise of ecclesiastical marriage and the administration of matrimonial law by the church; the Protestant conception of marriage and the rise of civil marriage and present English law; and finally the history of separation and divorce under English and ecclesiastical law. These two parts compose the first volume and about one-fourth of the second. The remainder of the second volume and the whole of the third is devoted to a discussion of matrimonial institutions in the United States.

The author deals with the colonial period and then traces the course of marriage and divorce legislation through the century and a quarter of our history, closing with the problems of marriage and the family. He gives numberless quotations from the statutes of all the states of the Union, quotations from reports, etc. The work here is done first hand and it is every way admirable. The bibliography is large and well classified, the numerous footnotes contain much valuable information. In fact, the book is a library on the subject in hand. It will be found extremely interesting to intelligent laymen and preachers, and would be invaluable to legislators who are striving to deal intelligently with the immense and vastly important problems of proper marriage and divorce legislation. It is to be hoped the book will find a wide reading in spite of the fact that it is somewhat costly.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.