

kind of expression of opinion as to much larger questions, like the essential character of Christianity, its present condition, its perils, and the problems of the future in theology. While it is not clear why such discussions are altogether relevant to the subject which gives the title to the book, one cannot help admiring the courage and hopefulness of the author in the face of what he must needs regard as the dark aspects of the present, which in their turn seem to rise out of the essence of the faith as hitherto believed and lived. Much that is beloved must go before the new dawn can arise, which will consist, however, after all, in "a revival of Christ's own religion, simple, spiritual, filled with a sense of God's presence and reflecting his gracious spirit of love."

It is most unfortunate that a book covering so wide a range of religious history and dealing so largely in details contains almost no references to pertinent literature. The author could have doubled the value of his work in this way. Surely historical writers ought to be most conscientious on this score. In the case of a recognized scholar like Professor Paine no one would have dreamed of suspecting him of attempting to make a show with lists of authorities. His modesty—if we may ascribe the defect to this cause—has done him grievous wrong, and of it his readers may justly complain.

G. S. G.

Musical Ministries in the Church. Studies in the History, Theory, and Administration of Sacred Music. By PROFESSOR WALDO S. PRATT, MUS.D., Hartford Theological Seminary. Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1901. Pp. 181. \$1, *net*.

Church music, whether vocal or instrumental, choral or congregational, has but one legitimate function, namely, to promote the spiritual life of the worshipers. When the religious character and aim are obscured, music is harmful rather than helpful to the church service. Theoretically this is recognized by all, and there can be no question that a rapid and steady improvement in this feature of public worship has been in progress for a generation. The difficulty, however, is great of getting organists, soloists, and choir leaders who appreciate the difference between sacred and secular music, and who keep in mind the true purpose which music in worship is to serve. It is necessary that someone hold up constantly the ideal of religious music in every church; and inasmuch as it is the minister who is primarily responsible for the public services of the church, and the realization of their true

religious influence in the community, so it devolves upon him first of all to provide suitable sacred music for the worship of his people.

This duty of the minister has become so clear, and the opportunities in this direction have become so important, that chairs of instruction are being established in the theological seminaries for the purpose of training the future ministers in the proper function and management of church music. Professor Pratt, who occupies the chair of music and hymnology in Hartford Theological Seminary, has won a national reputation in this field by his large experience, his superior musical ability, and his wise instruction as to how to promote the usefulness of the musical ministries in the church. There is no one in America who so much deserves to be heard upon this subject.

Consequently this volume of five lectures by Professor Pratt is receiving enthusiastic attention in every quarter. The lectures are entitled: (1) "Religion and the Art of Music," (2) "Hymns and Hymn-Singing," (3) "The Choir," (4) "The Organ and the Organist," (5) "The Minister's Responsibility." They were first given as a short series of lectures before the faculty and students of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago; so that they were directly prepared to place the subject before ministers in the right light. Appendices to the volume contain bibliographies of works on the history of church music, on hymns and hymn-writers, and on the American church hymnals of the past twenty years. The book is therefore a manual of great merit and importance; it is eminently practical, sane, and helpful. No minister has done his full duty for his church who has not made a faithful, prolonged effort to perfect the quality, character, and influence of the music in his services of public worship.

C. W. V.