

part of Jesus or even of a self-deception in reference to the success of His work" (p. 413). This the reviewer must regard as an unjustifiable assertion, not warranted by the passages cited (Mark IX. I; XIV. 62; Matt. XXIV. 34), and still less in harmony with the general teaching of Jesus.

It must be recognized that the translator has unfortunately not performed his difficult task in a manner beyond criticism and regret. In fact, the book is hard reading even for one familiar with German, and many sentences must be almost unintelligible to those who lack such familiarity. The sentence on page 412, beginning, "Jesus could," is incomprehensible in its lack of grammative sequence. Again it is more than doubtful whether "The Godship of the Son" makes as good a chapter heading as would the familiar phrase, "The Deity of the Son." But in spite of any defects we thank Professor Schadde for the pains he has taken to render accessible in English this crowning work of a German theologian who has scarce his peer.

D. F. ESTES.

### **The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia and their Place in the Plan of the Apocalypse.**

By W. M. Ramsay, D. C. L., L. L. D., Professor of Humanity in the University of Aberdeen. A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1905.

Prof. Ramsay has earned the rare distinction of having made real and lasting contributions to New Testament learning. The ripe scholarship of Prof. Ramsay as the foremost student in geography and history of Asia Minor invited him to the study of Asiatic Christianity. Hence came the cities and bishoprics of Phrygia and later the church in the Roman Empire. But such a preparation pointed inevitably to Paul and Paul the Traveller is one of the great lives of the apostle. The

historical commentary on Galatians showed how geographical and historical knowledge could illumine the text of Scripture and give us a new type of commentary. But there was still a great service that Prof. Ramsay had to perform. The Fathers and the Seven Churches in the Book of Revelation have been loaded, well nigh covered up, with comment, much of which did not help the reader. Prof. Ramsay diligently and seriously endeavors to interpret those letters in the terms of Asiatic life at the end of the first century and he has produced a revolutionary volume. He definitely turns away from the Neronic date and interpretation, so long common in Germany, and returns to the Domitianic date plainly advocated by Irenaeus. But he does more. He cuts loose from all schemes of interpretation that have in view the whole course of history or even the Roman Catholic Church. He sees chiefly the Roman Empire and the Province of Asia as the embodiment of that Empire as the great enemies of Christianity when the book of Revelation was written. The Emperor cult was now dominant in Asia. Prof. Ramsay gives numerous cuts in proof of this fact in each of the seven cities to which the letters were addressed. He urges that the letters have in mind the cities as well as the churches. The history of each city, so far as is known, is used to throw light on the language of the Apocalypse and with wonderful results. It cannot be hoped that every point made by Prof. Ramsay in such a new field will stand, but it is certain that much of what he has said is true, and no student of the Apocalypse can afford to pass by this remarkable volume. It will upset many theories of the Book of Revelation, but that may be one of its chief merits. If at last we may come to more solid ground in the interpretation of Revelation, Prof. Ramsey will have immortalized himself. The book is properly and handsomely illustrated.

A. T. ROBERTSON.