

It is encouraging that books like this are in demand. People are interested in the history of hymns, and a pleasing book like this cannot fail to awaken a larger interest in its engaging subject. It is an appetizing book, and it is hoped that the author will extend his work over a larger area. We shall be glad to see more from his pen.

E. C. DARGAN.

The Teaching of Jesus Concerning His Own Mission.

By Frank Hugh Foster, Ph.D., D.D. American Tract Society. New York. Pp. 136.

This is a scholarly but popular presentation of the teaching of Jesus concerning his own mission. In defining his method of study in the first chapter, Dr. Foster points out the importance of coming to Jesus himself and hearing his own words, and not to the learned doctors who have written about him, if we are to attain the best results. He maintains that we cannot know Jesus apart from the conception held of him by the writers of the Gospels, for says he, "if the two are different and contradictory, then we can never know Jesus." This is because the Gospels set forth the conception of Jesus held by the writers of them. The book assumes the equal substantial value of all the evangelical representations of Jesus' teachings. The first three and the fourth Gospel are substantially the same in their representations, and the Christ of the four Gospels is a single and consistent personality.

Dr. Foster strongly believes in the doctrine of the unity of the New Testament, and claims that we must consider the fact that Paul's writings antedated the Gospels. In interpreting the latter we must use Paul to interpret Matthew and John. From this the conclusion is reached that there is no essential conflict between the teachings of the Gospels and those of Paul, for had there been some notice would have been taken of it.

In chapter three, seven fundamental utterances of Jesus are quoted as containing a summary of his own statement of his mission. The subsequent chapters deal with these in their order. The titles of the chapters which follow are: The Lost World and the Kingdom of Heaven, The Salvation of Healing, The Salvation of Knowledge, The Salvation of Repentance and the New Life, The Salvation of Redemption and Forgiveness, Salvation at the Last Judgment, and Summary.

In chapter eight there is an interesting discussion of the teaching of Jesus concerning the ransom in Matthew 20:28. Dr. Foster discusses the meaning of this term, and finds from Hebrew usage in the Septuagint that the word ransom is never used in the sense of propitiation. He thinks, however, such a use may be justified. The corresponding Hebrew word in certain Old Testament passages means to cover, and this word as used in the ritual of Leviticus sets forth the atoning efficacy of the sacrifices. So he thinks it is closely akin in meaning to the word propitiation. Moreover, he finds that in profane Greek, in Aeschylus, Sophocles, and others, the word and its cognates are freely used in the sense of propitiation. Then connecting the teaching as to the ransom with the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 26:28 as to the blood of the covenant which is shed for many unto remission of sins, and also with the Epistle to the Hebrews, he concludes that it is not forcing the term to give it the meaning of propitiation.

This is a most excellent little work, and will be found extremely useful to all Sunday-school teachers and others who desire a concise but accurate and comprehensive presentation of the leading teachings of Jesus concerning his mission.

E. Y. MULLINS.