

course social progress cannot be set forth statistically in any adequate way, and yet the statistical side of the matter is very important. The book will prove a valuable work of reference to all those interested in its subject.

E. Y. MULLINS.

Islam and the Oriental Churches; Their Historical Relations. Students' Lectures on Missions, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1902-3.

By William Ambrose Shedd, M.A., Missionary of the American Presbyterian Church to Persia. Published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work. Philadelphia. 1904. 250 pp. \$1.25 net.

Besides a general Introduction, with the purpose of showing the importance of the subject, there are lectures on The Influence of Christianity on Muhammad, and on the Beginnings of Islam; The Relation of Christianity to the Development of Muslim Theology; The Relation of Muhammadan Government to the Oriental Churches; The Expansion of the Faiths; The Downfall of Christianity in the Common Ruin; The Light of the Past on the Future of Missionary Conflict.

Mr. Shedd has sought to give us a scientific, a just and fair, account of the relations of Christianity and Islam. He has avoided the missionary's attitude in the earlier chapters and thus made all the more effective his brief and incisive statement of the message for missions set forth in the concluding chapter.

Full credit for all good and a fair statement of all evil in Mohammedanism is given. Possibly he goes too far in acquitting Islam of barbarity in its propagandism. The Oriental Churches also get sympathetic treatment.

The title of the book suggests a scope which we find the author does not really mean to cover. For the Introduction informs us that he "will discuss the historical relation of the faiths, not their philosophic and moral effects, except incidentally." Geographically, also, he now proposes to limit himself to a portion, merely, of Western

Asia "and ecclesiastically to the Nestorian and Jacobite churches."

The result justifies neither the title nor this introductory limitation of the field; but rather falls between the two conceptions. There is some vagueness about the earlier lectures on this account. Much of the discussion applies to all the "churches," and some to only one or two, and with some changes of the factors involved. In treating Islam, moreover, there is not maintained sufficient clearness of distinction between general facts of the faith, and facts applicable to one or another sect of Islam. Features of some sect are sometimes treated as if characteristics of the whole.

There is wide reading, sympathetic handling, careful reflection manifest in this work and the work is an addition of value to the popular literature of a subject too little familiar to American Christians.

W. O. CARVER.

Japan To-day.

By James A. B. Scherer, Ph.D. Formerly Teacher of English in the Government School at Saga, Japan; Now President of Newberry College, South Carolina; Author of "Four Princes; or the Growth of a Kingdom." With Illustrations. Philadelphia and London. J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1904.

This little volume, 323 pages, is done on good paper, in splendid type, and with twenty-eight full-page illustrations that are well executed. The reading matter is interesting and informing, some of it misinforming. The author constantly seeks to be amusing and quite generally succeeds, but his success is sometimes at the expense of exactness. There is no comprehensive view of "Japan to-day" but rather a lot of sectional snap-shots. These are highly entertaining and if one knows, and remembers, the limits to which these views apply he will learn much. The author quotes freely from other works on Japan, sometimes at considerable length.

Altogether the book is bright and sparkling without being new.

W. O. CARVER.