

VI. MISCELLANEOUS.

SOCRATES.

By Rev. J. T. Forbes, M.A. Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York. Pages 282.

This delightful treatise on Socrates belongs to the World's Epoch-Maker Series and is worthy of a place in the list. Mr. Forbes is a Baptist pastor in Glasgow, Scotland. He is a man of real scholarship and critical acumen. While the volume purports to discuss only Socrates, in reality the background of Greek philosophy is pictured so well that one feels that he has had a brief course in Greek thought. Indeed, this is just what Mr. Forbes has done, for one cannot understand Socrates as an isolated phenomenon. The careful weighing of the details of Socrates' system of ethics is thus all the more valuable. Socrates has a charm for Mr. Forbes that is real, not merely perfunctory. Rational ethics absorbed the mind of Socrates. While he always put the sophists in a corner, sometimes he did so by sophistical methods. And yet he was not a mere sophist. A mystery gathers round Socrates that is not entirely removed even by Mr. Forbes. But he has done a fine piece of work.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN AND HIS WORK.

By Z. Grenell. Christian Culture Press, Chicago. 1906.

This little volume of 217 pages is, as the author calls it, "a primer of Christian ethics—primer because it is elementary, Christian because it appeals to the Scriptures, especially to the New Testament, as the authority for its positions, ethics because it treats of right character and conduct". This is a very concise and comprehensive description of the book. As a compendium of Christian ethics, it deals with many subjects which are fundamental and vital. The analysis of subjects is as follows: Introduction, two chapters; Duties to Self, six chapters; Duties to Others, eight chapters; Duties to Institutions, four chapters; Duties to God, five chapters, and Conclu-

sion, chapter 25, on Symmetry of Character. Among the topics discussed which will be suggestive of the table which the author spreads for the young Christian are the following: The Ennobled Body; Using the Mind; The Enlightened Conscience; The Golden Rule; Love Overflowing; The Christian Home; The Orderly State, besides a series of suggestive chapters on our duties to God. The style of the book is simple, practical, and direct. It is clear and concise in statement; sounds from time to time the devotional note; aims to guide the conscience of the young Christian of today; seeks to reinforce character by making the path of duty plain, and to reinforce upward strivings by pointing out the highest motives of service. For example, in the chapter on Altruism, the author distinguishes between true and false altruism, or rather the higher and lower altruism. Altruism, says the author, is not merely loving others as we love ourselves, but loving others better than we love ourselves. Christ's new commandment requires this. "It is not devotion to others' welfare, it is not devotion to others' welfare equal to devotion to self; it is devotion to others' more than to self and at the expense of self. It far surpasses the maxim to 'put yourself in his place', which is an act of the imagination. It teaches instead to 'put him in your own place'; that is, let his interests displace your own, which is not an imaginary act" (pp. 104, 105).

This book is designed for young Christians in the societies of the Baptist Young People's Union, and has twenty-five chapters adapted to the courses of study included in the Christian culture studies of the Baptist Young People's Union of America. There has long existed a need for a good text-book on elementary Christian ethics for use in our Baptist Young People's Societies and in our homes and Bible schools. Too often young Christians have been brought into the church upon conversion and left without requisite instruction on Christian duty. This book supplies the need well, and ought to have a great career of usefulness. There is a brief

bibliography and sufficiently complete index. The arrangement of the matter is convenient for class work. A quiz follows each chapter, which brings out the main points and is suggestive in other ways. There are also suggested topics for papers or for discussion, or for the leaders' remarks, placed at the end of each chapter. The book can be most heartily recommended.

E. Y. MULLINS.

DIE HELLENISTISCH-RÖMISCHE KULTUR IN IHREN BEZIEHUNGEN ZU JUDENTHUM UND CHRISTENTUM.

Von Dr. Paul Wendland. Boger 1-6. Verlag von J. C. B. Mohr, Tübingen, Germany. 1907. S. 96. Pr. 1 M. 80 Pf.

Dr. Wendland in these few pages has drawn a very clear and strong picture of life in the Roman Empire. He outlines the influence of Hellenism on Rome itself and the whole empire, shows the effect of the Greek city-state idea, sets forth the contribution of Stoicism to Roman culture, explains how Neo-Platonism contributed to Christianity's use of Greek philosophy, describes the weariness of the world over polytheism, pictures the use that the Christian missionaries make of the Jewish synagogue and heathen preaching as models, and finally points out how the New Testament books have some connection in general method with the use of diatribe in the Roman literary culture of the time. It is a really helpful discussion and makes it easier for the student to get a tangible conception of the actual literary, political, social, and religious life of the time. The book is Erste Band sweite Teil; 3. Lieferung in the Handbuch zum Neuen Testament.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

THE SYNTAX OF THE BOEOTIAN DIALECT INSCRIPTIONS. A Dissertation presented to the Faculty of Bryn Mawr College for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

By Edith Frances Claffin, Greenfield, Mass. The Lord Baltimore Press, Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Claffin has done a distinctly valuable piece of work and it is now much easier than before to use the Boeotian