

quently and inspiringly about the ministry but exemplified what he said in his own notable ministry in London. He was one of the great spiritual forces of England.

Every one whose attention is called to this book will make a mistake if he does not place it in his library.

C. S. GARDNER.

Vital Elements in Preaching. By Arthur S. Hoyt. Professor of Homiletics and Sociology in Auburn Theological Seminary, etc. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1914. 326 pp. \$1.50 net.

These lectures have been delivered to classes at the Auburn Seminary and at the Chicago Divinity School during a summer term.

It cannot be said that there is anything new in them; but they are impressive discussions of "Vital elements in Preaching." They are characterized by the modesty, simplicity, sincerity, sanity and clear insight which seem to mark all of Professor Hoyt's work. They clarify, if they do not extend, the preacher's comprehension of his work, and, what is of even greater importance, they give the preacher a fresh *appreciation* of his task. Their spiritual value for the preacher is very great.

C. S. GARDNER.

Personal Christianity: Instruments and Ends in the Kingdom of God. By Francis J. McConnell, one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church. New York, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1914. 265 pp. \$1.25 net.

This volume contains the lectures before Vanderbilt University on the Cole Foundation. We are told in the Prefatory Note that "it is the purpose of these lectures to show that persons, existing on earth in intimate interdependence, are ends-in-themselves in the Kingdom of God on earth, and that all things else,—books, creeds rituals, organizations,—are instrumental, with only such sacredness as can attach to instruments." This thesis the lectures sustain with power. In the first, the importance of personality is emphasized; and in the second the instrumental relation of all else is set forth. Then the author

proceeds to discuss the "instruments" in some detail—the philosophical, the moral, the social, closing with a sketch of the world-wide mission of Christianity.

The author's attitude may be described as progressively conservative, and the book is stimulating, sane, putting the emphasis on the real values.

The author has a pungent and rather epigrammatic way of stating important truths, which adds to the interest of the reader. It is a really valuable book.

C. S. GARDNER.

Intimate Letters on Personal Problems. By Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D. Selected and Arranged by John T. Faris, D.D. George H. Doran Company, New York, 1914. 289 pp. \$1.25 net.

A fine example of "the ministry of letter writing", so graciously and extensively exercised during the author's busy life. These letters were carefully selected, says Dr. Faris, from more than a score of letter books in which copies were found of the good man's loving messages to known and unknown correspondents in all parts of the world. They are well classified under such suggestive heads as "Getting Along with Others," "The Anxieties of the Toiler;" "Beginning the Christian Life;" "Doubts and Doubters;" "Growing in Grace;" "Prayer Problems;" "Young People's Problems;" "Questions About Marriage;" "To Anxious Mothers;" "The Hard Things of Life;" and "Comfort for the Bereaved."

It was his habit, on Sunday evenings especially, to make note of all the people whom he had met or of whom he had heard during the day to whom letters might do good. As soon as possible a letter was sent to each one with an appropriate word of sympathy, congratulation, cheer, or good wishes. Then he kept a record of the important dates in the lives of his people—birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and so forth—and each of these he turned to account by sending a letter of remembrance. If he heard of sickness or death in any family with which he was acquainted, in his own town, in distant parts of