

The Church and Society. By R. Fulton Cutting, LL.D. President of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. New York, 1912. The Macmillan Co. 223 pages. \$1.25.

This book consists of the Kennedy Lectures for 1912, in the New York School of Philanthropy. The topics discussed are live ones, as the chapter titles indicate: The Church and Civilization; the Church and the Public School; the Church and the Police; the Church and Public Health; the Church and the Children; Public Opinion and the Church. The author says many wise things with great force. He manifests sympathy for the Church and recognizes her great services to civilization—magnifies, indeed, her social function. But on the whole, the book is rather an indictment of the church. His criticism—always kindly—is often just; and yet one who has had experience in trying to lead a modern church feels that there are difficult aspects of the problem which the author has not adequately appreciated and has not, therefore, fairly considered. How effectively to relate the church to modern social conditions, is by no means an easy problem. The discussion of it generally ends by blaming the preachers for being too theologically minded and not sufficiently socially minded—which in many, many cases is quite true. And yet to lay upon a hardworked minister the obligation to help conduct the public schools and to sympathize and advise with the police, and lead in the crusade for public health, etc., etc., is to lay upon him more than can fairly be asked of a single functionary in society. But in some way he should bring his church into relation to all these movements for uplift. It must be done, doubtless, by a larger conception of his message and by breathing the social spirit into all his preaching and pastoral activity.

The latter part of our book contains a summary of the information the author gathered as to the actual methods now being used to relate the Church helpfully to the social movements which look to the uplift of men,—and is worthy of a careful reading; as indeed the whole volume is. It is one of the most constructive and helpful works that have dealt with this question.

C. S. GARDNER.