

detail are inevitable; but this is the best work on the subject in English with which the reviewer is acquainted.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

Characters and Events of Roman History. From Caesar to Nero. The Lowell Lectures of 1908. By Guglielmo Ferrero, Litt.D., Author of "Greatness and Decline of Rome". Translated by Frances Lance Ferrero. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1909. Pages 275. Price \$2.50.

This volume is in a sense an aftermath of the series on "The Greatness and Decline of Rome". These letters are much more readable and can be much enjoyed independently of the history. Indeed, I am not sure but that the history will be more intelligible if this volume be read first. At any rate we have the author's philosophy of history with brilliant character sketches of some of the great men and women of Rome. He comes at the subject with an astonishing freshness. One feels as if he had never before really understood Antony and Cleopatra, Augustus, Tiberius and Nero. The conflict between East and West, between republic and monarchy is brought out with great power. The rise of Gaul to the scale of Egypt in wealth is also set forth very clearly. The book is a worthy successor of the author's great history. A. T. ROBERTSON.

The Armenian Awakening. A History of the Armenian Church, 1820-1860. By Leon Arpee, Chicago. 1909. The University of Chicago Press. Pages xi+235.

The period embraced by this work is brief but eventful, if not epochal. It is the period of the beginnings of Protestant missions to the Armenians and a period when political forces involving European policies were playing an important part in the bringing on of a new era, as also when the Roman Church and other forces as well were also contributing to determine the future of the Armenian Church. Against a preparatory background of the history of Armenia and a study of the people, all the forces and their effects are reviewed in detail in this work. It is severely scientific and lacks that enlivening which a more truly historic imagination would give. The work is needlessly

dry and tedious to read. Its subject and subject matter are such as would afford a stirring story, but we do not find it in this work from which we can yet get the facts carefully sought and sifted out and placed before us. It is of great value to one who wants to know the modern Armenian Church.

W. O. CARVER.

V. SOCIOLOGY.

The Approach to the Social Question. An Introduction to the Study of Social Ethics. By Francis Greenwood Peabody, Professor of Christian Morals in Harvard University. The Macmillan Co., New York. 1909. Price \$1.25 net.

This volume contains in substance a series of lectures delivered before the Pacific Theological Seminary in 1907. It is written in the delightful style for which Dr. Peabody is well known. As to contents it is one of the best of the volumes which that balanced and devout thinker has given to the public. He declares at the beginning the truth, now generally recognized, that "the task of the twentieth century is to be the reformation and reconstruction of the social world". He discusses successively the relations of philosophy, social science, sociology, economics, ethics, ethical idealism and religion to this supreme question of our time. It must be approached in the comprehensive spirit of philosophy, by the way of patient observation and generalization of facts, viewed in the light of the highest ethical ideals and interpreted in their deep religious significance. He makes, we think, an untenable distinction between social science and sociology, which doubtless most sociologists would hold to be practically synonymous terms. His idea of social science seems to be the inductive study of the facts in some limited sphere of life, while sociology he seems to consider the full and final correlation of all the truths developed in these several fields. And so "Sociology seems in its present condition to occupy that transcendental region which is irresistibly inviting to speculative minds, but which one must enter with the understanding that he has passed beyond the