

to interpret the black mind to the white. And for this he has steeped himself in black life; often with no white society at all, hardly ever on a missionary "station." He deliberately slept in native huts, with all their horrors; ate native food and abjured the sins of civilization; spoke native tongues till he thought in native idiom.

Into the mind of the Central African negro he has obtained a wonderful insight. And the beauty of it is, that he re-translates into plain English. A terrible vice of the writing missionary is to use native words, and so to obscure the nature of the thing. How many years have we read about the "palaver" before Mr. Crawford explains that the African is a most litigious person, and that every trumpety dispute becomes the occasion of a "lawsuit"! The pages spent on the tribal codes and their infraction might stand beside Dickens' story of Jarndyce versus Jarndyce. - "This man who out of sheer kindness warned his neighbors of impending danger—why have the law on him for that? Can you wonder that the black man will not believe the Gospel of Grace because it is all too incredibly good to be true? What does he know about Grace?" Then take his explanation of "Budindu," the female freemasonry. He shows how it sprang out of one woman's wrong long ago, when her son was skinned to make a human carpet. "The general idea is that of a Benefit Society, whose supreme function is to scrutinize the cause of death of any of its members. It decreed a Married Women's Property Act long before the belated English Act of 1883." Is not this a book claiming your attention?

W. T. WHITLEY.

The Japanese Nation in Evolution; Steps in the Progress of a Great People. By William Elliot Griffis, D.D., L.H.D., Formerly of the Imperial University of Japan, Author of "The Mikado's Empire," "Japan in History, Folk-lore and Art," etc., and "Corea, the Hermit Nation." New York, Thomas Y. Crowell. xii+408 pages. \$1.25 net.

It is no wonder that the demand continues for new editions of this most interesting and able study of Japanese origins, his-

tory, characteristics and outlook. That the primitive Japanese stock was Aryan, that it is perpetuated in the modern Ainu as a remnant; that this element imparted a permanent occidental cast to Japanese character and so accounts for their modernism is a thesis maintained with learning and enthusiasm. It is probable that this theory has been overworked by Dr. Griffis as also that he exaggerates the influence Japan is likely to exert in the East. But no one is better qualified to speak of Japan and its people.

W. O. CARVER.

Just Before the Dawn, the Life and Work of Ninomiya Sontoku. By Robert Cornell Armstrong, M.A., Kobe, Japan. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1912. xxi+273 pages, \$1.50 net.

The subject of this biographical study of the economic life of Japan lived just prior to the modern period in Japan, dying in 1856. He was a farmer philosopher, an economic moralist. It is evident that he exerted a great influence and that his teachings represent a high standard of utilitarian ethics. His influence was for the most part local and the effort to make him out a regenerator of Japan is not successful. He was one of many personal forces contributing toward that evolution that burst forth with a surprise which the world has not even yet, after sixty years, come to understand. This work, among several, helps understand how Japan came so rapidly into modernism.

W. O. CARVER.

Other Sheep, A Missionary Companion to "Twice Born Men." By Harold Begbie, author of "Souls in Action." Hodder and Stoughton, New York, George H. Doran Company, 1912. xi+355 pages. \$1.25 net.

This imaginative interpreter of religious need and experience enters every field of practical Christianity. At length he tries his powers in the field of foreign missions and selected India for illustration. Of course it was the work of the Salvation Army that most interested him. In a hurried journey of a few months