

II. PRACTICAL THEOLOGY.

Efficiency in the Sunday School. By H. F. Cope, M.A., D.D., General Secretary of the Religious Education Association. Hodder & Stoughton. New York.

Perhaps no author of the present day writes more copiously or more vigorously on the vital aspects of religious education than Dr. Cope. This is his third volume on the Sunday School and its problems, the first being *The Modern Sunday School in Principle and Practice*, and the second *The Evolution of the Sunday School*. It discusses in a suggestive and illuminating manner the most significant topics of the Sunday School enterprise in both city and country. He argues for the extension of the ordinary conception of the Sunday School as a school which holds a brief session on Sunday until it shall include all the educational activities of the church, whenever or wherever they may be conducted.

Dr. Cope makes character building central in all his plans from that of physical surroundings to spiritual application. That everything he says should meet with enthusiastic approval is not to be expected, but he will make you think even when he can not induce you to agree. He will make you see your opportunity and resolve to improve it.

BYRON H. DEMENT.

The Pilot Flame. By Kelley Jenness. Boston. Sherman, French & Co., 1912.

Books on various phases of religious psychology are already numerous and are being rapidly multiplied.

Dr. Jenness under the concrete popular title of *The Pilot Flame* has presented to the reading world an admirable treatise on the psychological aspects of Christian experience as revealed by personal replies to written questions sent out to members of his congregations in California and West Virginia. Though not

numerous the responses were frank, full and illuminating. They represented every walk of life and degree of culture.

The author says there is no religion of the mature mind essentially different from that of the immature mind—that fundamental Christian experience is the same despite the accidents of fortune and education. His relations with scientific men and other leaders of thought have enriched his message. He considers two types of conversion, the gradual and the radical, under the titles of the Child Who Conforms and the Child Who Varies. There are chapters on Illumination, the Perception of the Presence of God, the Lettered and the Learned, the Turbulent Bar, Dark Till Jesus Comes, and Made-Over Garments. I know of no better book in the field of religious psychology to put into the hand of a thoughtful person, whether of average learning or of university training.

BYRON H. DEMENT.

On the Firing Line with the Sunday School Missionary. By John M. Somerndike. Philadelphia. The Westminster Press. 1912. Pages 165. Price 50 cents. Postage 8 cents extra.

It is evident from many recent books that the ministry of the Sunday School is coming into a new appreciation by progressive churches. The Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work have brought their denomination, especially, and all others to no small degree, under a debt of gratitude for this clear, graphic and judicious treatment of the Sunday School as a quiet, economic and effective agency in disseminating gospel truth and preparing the way for self-sustaining churches. The field considered embraces the Northern Prairies, the Middle West, the Rocky Mountain District, the South and Southwest and the Pacific Slope. The Negro Problem and the Fundamentals of the Great Commission are considered, while questions, tables, and illustrations make the book suitable for study in special classes as well as for private reading.

BYRON H. DEMENT.