

It is not at all an effort at a complete modern dogmatic, but rather a statement of the principles and aspects of thought and life that must have recognition in any theology valid for modern conditions. In the words of the author, his aim is "to set forth the meaning of Christianity in the light of its origins, to show the Fact which creates the Religion, and the practical and theological bearings of that Fact."

The origins of Christianity are to be found in the personal impression—experience is the better term—of Christ by His followers. The authority in Christianity is not to be found in an ecclesiasticism nor in a book, for both are too external and mechanical to meet the case; nor yet in "individual inner-consciousness" which is too vague and subjective; but in "a saving fact, the definite act of God within us, the creative energy of Christ upon the soul." From this standpoint of experience the author thinks to save the historical foundations of Christ as reflected in the experience of Paul and the other New Testament writers and provide a basis for all the essential realities in reconciliation, redemption and sanctification. The truth of the Ritschian position is thus used to meet the needs of a vital theology in its adjustment to modern times on the basis of a "humanistic" view of reality, but a view which goes much deeper than that of the pragmatic philosophy. It is a very worthy work and will contribute toward a better theology.

W. O. CARVER.

Religiös-sittliche Gegenwartsfragen. Vorträge von D. Erich Schaefer, Professor der Theologie in Kiel. Leipzig, 1911. A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung Nachf. Ss. 229. M. 4; bound, 4.80.

In this volume are gathered together ten popular discussions of subjects of much practical as well as technical interest. They had been published at different times from 1907 onward. Every question now has to be considered "in the light of modern thought" and this, as the title suggests, is the method here. The attitude is strictly evangelical and the tone spiritual. It grips fundamentals and judges all things by the test of experience wrought out in ethical and religious practice. The problems

most urgently pressing upon modern Christianity in Europe are here dealt with from the standpoint of vital faith. Here are some of the topics "Jesus and Great Men," "What Jesus Desired," "Christ and Nature," "Evangelical and Catholic," "The Holy Spirit and the Church," "Religious Progress and Redemption through Christ," "The Significance of a Theocentric Theology."

W. O. CARVER.

Centralfragen der Dogmatik in der Gegenwart. Sechs Vorlesungen von D. Ludwig Ihmels, o Professor der Theologie in Leipzig. Leipzig, 1911. A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung Nachf. S. 188. M. 2.80; bound, 3.40.

This volume contains six lectures given in Leipzig in a course provided by the Government's Department of Public Worship and Instruction, for the advancement of Public School teachers. The first lecture deals with the general relation of Faith and Dogma, and with the rise of a new dogmatics. Lecture II defines Christianity as a religion of fellowship with God through the mediation of Christ and shows the absoluteness of Christianity in relation to modern thought questions.

Lecture III discusses Revelation, its idea up to and after Schleiermacher, the significance of word-revelation in comparison with deed-revelation and the peculiarity of the Christian revelation. Lecture IV deals with the Person of Jesus, taking account of the more significant Christologies of the last century in an historical survey. Lecture V takes up the work of Jesus in its permanent significance for His followers. Here especially the author treats of various theories of atonement from the Reformation onward and finally gives the point of departure for a right dogmatic on this subject in the light of Scripture. The last Lecture deals with the question of Faith's certainty, taking up the general matter of the Supernatural view, the treatment of the question by Kaftan, Tröltzsch and Franks. Finally he comes to the discussion of the knowledge of experience. An appendix contains notes on the lectures. It is a worthy discussion. Imagine such lectures to public school teachers in America!

W. O. CARVER.