

way as to show that the character of poetry as an art and as a social force was always in his mind.

Among other poems studied here one is glad to find passages from Sidney Lanier's *Centennial Cantata* and Miss Hapgood's *Epic Songs of Russia*.

GEORGE BOARDMAN EAGER.

The Laos of North Siam.

By Lillian Curtis. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1904.

Mrs. Curtis has entered an open door. Little is generally known of this people or the mission work among them, and the sources of information are exceeding scanty and fragmentary. Four years of residence, an alert, observant mind, and an easy style, all under the influence of a sympathetic nature give the qualities which have entered into the making of this volume of more than 300 pp. Mr. Robert E. Speer has written a brief, pleasing "Introduction." We are glad to have the book as an addition to our missionary literature. The illustrations are good.

W. O. CARVER.

The Life of Frederick William Farrar.

By his son Reginald Farrar. New York. T. Y. Crowell & Co. 1904.

The late Dean of Canterbury is well known wherever English is read as a wonderfully prolific and vigorous writer in varied departments of literary, historical and theological work. His exuberant style, vivid imagination, intense feeling and serious aims are too well known to many readers to need comment. Like most men who have written too much about too many things his scholarship lacked the profound qualities of specialism, though not the brilliancy of versatility; and his wide and hearty reading much outstripped the sobriety of deep reflection. But for all that he was a scholar of extensive and in many

ways solid acquirements, and an author whose rhetoric did not always run away with his thought. As a preacher of intense feeling and of popular powers, though often onesided and lacking in caution, he impressed his generation. He was earnest, fearless, intent on good, and helpful to thousands who have heard and read his discourses.

It was fitting that the life of Farrar should find monument in biography, and many will be grateful to his son for preserving and presenting its main features in this volume. At the same time candor compels the statement that the book might have been better! Still let us not quarrel with a filial biographer whose apologetic tone in view of criticism is a little too evident, and whose admiration and love for a good and noble father exceed the judicial and literary qualities of his work.

Passing the defects of the book, we are interested in the life set forth in it, and follow the boy born in India to his schooling in the Isle of Man, at Marlborough, and at Cambridge, rejoicing in his purity of life, his bright interest in letters, his devotion to the duties of a student, and his earnestness in the pursuit of the really high things of life. As a teacher at Marlborough, at Harrow, and at Marlborough again, Farrar did great good among his pupils, not only in the stimulation and direction of their scholarship, but in the spiritual and moral influence of his life and teachings. As canon of Westminster and preacher at St. Margaret's his parochial and pulpit labors were performed with the fidelity and enthusiasm characteristic of the man. This was the intense and in some ways culminating period of his career. His last days as Dean of historic Canterbury form the fitting evening of his fruitful and busy life. We had guessed him much from his books, and are glad to know him a little more minutely and clearly in this account of his life and labors.

E. C. DARGAN.