

gives many valuable statistical tables drawn from the last religious census. While deploring the waste of spiritual power through denominational friction, he takes a hopeful view of modern tendencies. Among the leavening forces of society he gives high rank to the public school, Sunday School, Young Peoples' Societies, the rise of the Laymen who demand spiritual efficiency and fruitage more than church polity and doctrinal statements. Only as a church meets certain natural needs arising from temperamental differences in religious nature can it claim a right to exist and propagate. Thus man and his needs as determined by an inductive study are made the center and source of the genesis of sects. The problem of the denominations is therefore fundamentally psychological rather than theological. The author's characterization of typical denominations and typical individuals shows extensive reading and remarkable discrimination, and in general a sympathetic appreciation of different Christian bodies. Yet it is highly probable that many well-informed and loyal members of different denominations will feel that their people have been delineated in a manner slightly different from the way they have been accustomed to see them, and yet they cannot fail to identify the snap-shot and profit by the photograph of their religious family.

BYRON H. DEMENT.

Thinking Black: 22 Years Without a Break in the Long Grass of Central Africa. By D. Crawford, F. R. G. S. (Konga Vantu). London, Morgan & Scott, Ltd. New York, Geo. H. Doran Co. Price 7s 6d net.

This handsome volume of over 500 pages has a score of photographs, four striking pictures in full colors, and a map, while the jetty cover and frequent scarlet printing within, show that the publishers appreciate the quality of the work they produce. The public is quick to respond, so that a second impression has been called for within a month. The book ought to receive an equally enthusiastic welcome in America, where still the white man and the black may be side by side physically, but leagues apart in their thinking. This is what Mr. Crawford writes about,

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-