

current aspects of philosophy and science. The author recognizes the confusion and conflict in the older, external conception of much Christian theology in the light of modern changes in scientific knowledge and philosophical reconstruction. The effort of the school of Ritschl to free religion and theology from interdependence with science and history and metaphysics, while still holding many minds, is a fore-doomed failure.

The present work recognizes the need for an understanding on basal lines of the relations. By a systematic study of the problems, the Old Testament and the New Testament attitudes and the history of the Christian view of the universe, the author seeks to define the Christian fundamentals and the way to harmony in this field of thought.

He rightly holds that Christian theology cannot include a complete philosophy. Perhaps he goes too far in the way of including philosophical views in the basis of Christianity. One thinks also that he interprets rather narrowly and mechanically the views of Biblical writers concerning God's relation to the world. With almost any rational idealistic view Christianity can have no great quarrel. With *Naturalism* it must find itself in hopeless conflict, in all its forms.

W. O. CARVER.

Prayer and the Human Problem. By the Rev. W. Arthur Cornaby, Author of "The Call of Cathay," "Let Us Pray," etc.. New York, 1912. George H. Doran Company. viii+306 pages. \$1.50 net.

One of the encouraging features of current thinking is the number of works on Prayer, expressing the necessity for finding a rational place for praying in this time of scientific thinking. The work of Mr. Cornaby must be ranked high among such works. "The Human Problem" is the problem of free, sinful man's relation to God in a world order and from every aspect of it true, intelligent, active prayer is an essential—the essential—in working out the problem. The author's long residence in China has brought him very intimately into touch with some of the "problem's" most serious, most discouraging, and but for prayer most hopeless aspects. He has thought and experienced

much in sharing the problem. The fruit of thought and of experience are found here. The book is the product of much meditation, goes deep into its subject and explores it widely, is written in fine style. It is really a book of unusual interest and merit. Incidentally, by drawing on Chinese literature and religious experience the work gives much valuable material and suggestion in the study of comparative religion. It is to be commended strongly as "an earnest and sincere (and largely successful) attempt to define the conditions under which finite man may reach out into the eternal and gather confidence for his daily living."

W. O. CARVER.

II. MISSIONS.

Outlines of Missionary History. By Alfred DeWitt Mason, D. D.; Lecturer on the History of Missions in the Union Missionary Training Institute, Brooklyn, New York; Former Secretary of Young People's Missionary Work, Reformed Church in America. New York, 1912. George H. Doran Company. xii+338 pages. \$1.50 net.

Missionary literature is in nothing so wanting as in a satisfactory history of Missions. Eagerly one reaches out for a new work with that subject if haply at last he may find what has been lacking. Dr. Mason has made one unlike its predecessors and there is a place for it. The history of Christian Missions that was truly needed is still needed, however. This one is vitalized by a large biographical element. It is well written. Its analysis is not drawn from the history of Missions, but from other aspects of the history of the Church, and whereas the author says there are six periods he fails so to define them as to give any adequate reason for that number. After a rapid survey of the history (63 pages) the countries are taken up in order and the history of work in each outlined. Much more attention is given to Home Missions than in other histories, and this is a merit. The final chapter deals with "The Home Base," where alone the work of organization and inner growth is presented, of course in very summary fashion. Nine pages of "Missionary Chronology"—not without errors—is a very useful feature of the work.