having a hard time of it. The forces of education and of religion tend very largely to ignore the family and there are many features of our social and economic life that tend to destroy not only the power and influence of the home but the home itself. Dr. Jefferson gives no elaborate discussion of these facts and factors. Elaborate discussion is not his way. But he points them out with delicate and firm touch and makes his appeal in the most convincing and persuasive way. Then follow talks to the various members of the family. There is indeed a 'quietness' in it all that summons to meditation, to prayer. The book cannot fail to throw a holy spell of gentle seriousness over the reader and to open up his life to the influences that bring purity and strength. The book will help to make the family what it ought to be—what it must be if our modern life is to be saved from rushing itself into suicide in the eager chase for pleasure, sensation, wealth and power.

W. O. CARVER.

Just for Fun. By Helen J. Currier. A Collection of Games and Entertainments for use in the Home and Church. Philadelphia, The Griffith and Rowland Press, 1916. 165 pp. 50c.

There are some new ideas and some old ones in this handy little volume and it will be valuable on many occasions. It is very well done and there are times when all of us want just this sort of thing.

III COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND MISSIONS.

China—An Interpretation. By James W. Bashford, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Resident in China. New York and Cincinnati, 1916. The Abingdon Press. 620 pp. \$2.50 net.

Dr. Bashford writes with a free hand and deals with the assurance of a master with the essential phases of China's life and relations. The style is lucidity itself, and the work is presented in mechanical form that allures the reader. The author has not merely recorded for us personal observations and reflections on the one hand, nor on the other hand has he given us a compendium of the contents of good books and magazine articles. He

has combined the two methods of getting at his subject and then has handled it with personal independence. He has not taken things for granted. Giving discussions of the various topics that will be most interesting and illuminating for the intelligent reader, Dr. Bashford writes as one who knows, citing copiously the authorities for confirmation but always making the impression of independent agreement rather than dependent quoting. China, to be sure, is vastly too big for one man to know it in twelve years, or in a life time, and without any parade of the fact the reader is made to know when the author depends on first class authorities and when he writes out of his own experience.

The eighteen chapters treat of China's place in, and relation to, the world, of its inner life, industrial, commercial, educational, social and religious; of literature and philosophy; of law and politics; especially of the modern revolution in China and of the international and world phases of China's new era.

Japan's position in the East and in the world inevitably comes in for review and while the author thinks somewhat more kindly of Japan than the facts seem to me to justify, his diplomatic method of speech is to be commended and there is no compromise in the matter of Japan's haughty injustice and her disposition to take advantage of the European war to press her own selfish advantage.

There is no more comprehensive and helpful discussion of China in the literature. The book is most welcome. It is not that it is new so much as that it is confirmatory and gives a sort of total view that is very desirable at this time. One often will feel in reading it that one wishes to have many questions answered, but all along one will be getting the main outlines of the movement of the great Chinese people as they swing slowly into a new era in the history of the world, affecting at the same time the history of all the rest of the world.

W. O. CARVER.

Kingdom Preparedness—America's Opportunity to Serve the World. By Bruce Kinney, D.D., Author of "Mormonism." New York, 1916. Fleming H. Revell Company. 159 pp. 75c net.