III. RELIGIONS AND MISSIONS.

Endeavors after the Spirit of Religion. By Arthur G. Beach, Boston, 1912. Sherman, French & Company. 124 pages. \$1.00 net.

With a modified acceptance of the verdict of some that Christianity is discredited, decrepid and outgrown, this author thinks that only superficially is this so; that its failure is a formal failure and not one of spirit; that stripped of its illusions and driven from all dependence upon external force of authority, etc., robbed of its pride and position Christianity is but the better prepared to serve, to conquer. On this assumption the author goes forth in a buoyant spirit and a winning style of expression to tell of religion in "the enrichment of faith by experience," the strengthening of faith, the power of prayer, "the influence of Jesus upon religious faith," "the life of the spirit," and other aspects.

The work is full of inspiring thought which ought to be given a far more direct and vital connection with Jesus Christ than is found in this work. For in truth the ideas of the work owe their origin to Him and He is related to them far more fundamentally than this author allows. It is true that confident hopefulness, personal, social, and cosmic, is in practice the great contribution of Jesus to religion. But our author wholly ignores that the confidence of Jesus had a basis and cannot be reproduced and perpetuated without that basis. It almost looks like a studied insult in the connection in which the author represents Him as saying, "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God," and omits all reference to the further word of Jesus: "Believe also in Me." Nor does history justify the expectation that men will believe hopefully in God except as they believe in Jesus as the Christ.

If the reader will go beyond the author and think the splendid words and tone of this book into their relation to the Source of their optimism, the work will prove one of great profit and inspiration.

W. O. CARVER.