

is an interesting instance of an unflinching application of the historical method of criticism to the discussion of a vital question upon the solution of which hang momentous issues, not only in the religious, but in the social and political realms as well: Did our Lord allow, under any circumstances, the re-marriage of a divorced person during the lifetime of the other partner? The author says, there are few, if any, moral problems upon the right solution of which depends more really the weal or woe of the American people.

He publishes the essay in the avowed hope "that it may help some to examine afresh Christ's teaching in regard to that institution upon which society ultimately rests," by suggesting "the probable way in which the exceptive words were incorporated into the teaching of our Lord." Whatever the reader may think of the author's negative conclusions, he must recognize and respect his candid and reverent scholarship. "The Bible itself," he says, "not books about the Bible, has forced upon him the conviction that there is a human element in the Book, but his studies have also shown him that this recognition does but throw into sharper and higher relief the Divine element." Under this conviction, and the further conviction that "the guidance into all the truth did not cease on the Day of Pentecost," he undertakes, and would have us undertake, this investigation. "There is no reason to be afraid of putting to it a direct question, even though it may involve something that might be called 'criticism.'"

GEO. B. EAGER.

Building A Working Church. By Samuel Charles Black, D. D. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, 1911. \$1.25 net.

This is not a book of theories but of experiences. It represents harvests of experience "gathered from country and city missions, and from pastoral and church work in villages, towns and cities." "Only plans that have proved their value over and over again," says the author, "are included." The contention of the book is, that it is the spirit that quickeneth, method and plan are secondary; that "when the spirit is active methods will multiply like bubbles on batter quickened by new leaven;"

that work is the need of the church to-day, "just plain, hard, continuous, red-blood work;" we know enough, what we need to do is to apply ourselves and our knowledge to the work in hand. "Any worthy church that wishes to grow large and strong, to take the place the Master intended for it in the world," may do so, the author contends, if it will. It is an honest, earnest, straightforward attempt "to tell you how." Under "The Winning of the Local Community," it takes up the Forces in the Conflict, the Pastor's part and the People's Part; under "Contributing Elements," Missions and the Missionary Spirit, the Supreme Dynamic, the Spirit of Evangelizing, Social Life, or the Spirit of Fellowship, and Music in the Sanctuary, are dealt with; and as "Auxiliaries as Fields of Labor and Receiving Stations," the Sunday-school, Men's Clubs, Women's and Young People's Societies and Outside Missions are considered. The concluding chapter is on "A Working Church an Effective Projectile."

GEO. B. EAGER.

500 Ways to Help Your Church. The Minister's Social Helper.
By Theresa Hunt Walcott. The S. S. Times Co., Phila., 1912, pp. 364.
\$1.00 net, postpaid.

For promoting the social life of the young people affiliated with the church societies and keeping it under the protecting care of the church, this book is written by one who has had varied and valuable experience in such efforts. The material originally appeared in the *Ladies Home Journal* and elicited many letters of appreciation and suggestion, which, the author says, have helped to make the book possible. Here is a wealth of fine ideas and hints as to methods for providing wholesome entertainment, making instruction interesting, devising financial plans that include no questionable schemes of sale or barter, etc. The chapter on "Keeping the Boys in Church" is wisely suggestive.

GEO. B. EAGER.