

dry and tedious to read. Its subject and subject matter are such as would afford a stirring story, but we do not find it in this work from which we can yet get the facts carefully sought and sifted out and placed before us. It is of great value to one who wants to know the modern Armenian Church.

W. O. CARVER.

V. SOCIOLOGY.

The Approach to the Social Question. An Introduction to the Study of Social Ethics. By Francis Greenwood Peabody, Professor of Christian Morals in Harvard University. The Macmillan Co., New York. 1909. Price \$1.25 net.

This volume contains in substance a series of lectures delivered before the Pacific Theological Seminary in 1907. It is written in the delightful style for which Dr. Peabody is well known. As to contents it is one of the best of the volumes which that balanced and devout thinker has given to the public. He declares at the beginning the truth, now generally recognized, that "the task of the twentieth century is to be the reformation and reconstruction of the social world". He discusses successively the relations of philosophy, social science, sociology, economics, ethics, ethical idealism and religion to this supreme question of our time. It must be approached in the comprehensive spirit of philosophy, by the way of patient observation and generalization of facts, viewed in the light of the highest ethical ideals and interpreted in their deep religious significance. He makes, we think, an untenable distinction between social science and sociology, which doubtless most sociologists would hold to be practically synonymous terms. His idea of social science seems to be the inductive study of the facts in some limited sphere of life, while sociology he seems to consider the full and final correlation of all the truths developed in these several fields. And so "Sociology seems in its present condition to occupy that transcendental region which is irresistibly inviting to speculative minds, but which one must enter with the understanding that he has passed beyond the

boundary of verifiable truth. * * * To offer the ideal which that method [social science] may some day hope to realize". This characterization may be accepted, if he means to describe sociology as a completed interpretation of social phenomena. In this sense sociology will always remain a far-off ideal; but equally so will any other science; for there is no such thing as a single completed science until the knowledge of man is co-extensive with the universe.

Our author's best chapter is on Religion and the Social Question. He believes that this question is at heart a religious one. He believes that around it there is developing a vast extra-ecclesiastical movement which is fundamentally, though not professionally, religious. "Here is no abandonment of religion, or substitute for religion, but a way—not yet wholly clear, but not impassable—along which the life of the present age may reach a religion appropriate to its own needs." And in his conception that religion will be but an application to the peculiar needs of this age of the spirit of Jesus. "It is the discovery, which many minds at many points of this great adventure are now making, that beneath the forms of economic change there is proceeding a spiritual enterprise which the present age is called to undertake."

C. S. GARDNER.

The Process of Government. A Theory of Social Pressures. By Arthur F. Bentley. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 1908. Price \$3.20.

Our author has performed a valuable service for sociology by his emphasis upon group-activities. "It is first, last and always activity, action, 'something doing', the shunting by some men of other men's conduct along changed lines, the gathering of forces to overcome resistance to such alterations, or the dispersal of one grouping of forces by another grouping." The essential phenomena are not men interacting as individuals, but men as masses or groups pressing against other masses or groups, each group seeking to establish some particular interest. The government, law, is the actual, but temporary and unstable, equilibrium of these pressing groups. This idea he has worked out in a very luminous and impressing way.