V. PRACTICAL THEOLOGY.

Theosophy and Christianity. By M. Carta Sturge, Author of "The Truth and Error of Christian Science", "Thoughts Transcendental and Practical", and "Some Little Quakers in Their Nursery". London, 1917. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 94 pp. 1s, 6d. net (40 cts.).

The author professes to "treat the Theosophist teaching respectfully, allowing it to speak for itself as far as possible; and then shows what elements in it are compatible with Christianity, and what are not." No Theosophist is likely to quarrel with the author on the score of fairness. His attitude is even genial at times, and always studiously sympathetic. The book is small but all its space is utilized effectively and it is a remarkably clear setting forth of its subject.

If it assumes more knowledge of religious and philosophical vocabularies than some readers will command a good dictionary will relieve the trouble. I know of no work so good as this for its purpose. I think the Theosophists are treated with more consideration than their history and views demand, but that is much to be preferred over a method of denunciation and underestimating their good points.

W. O. CARVER.

The Human Elements in the Making of a Christian: Studies in Personal Evangelism. By Bertha Condé, Senior Student Secretary for the National Board of Young Women's Christian Associations. New York, 1917, Charles Scribner's Sons. x+--161 pp. \$1.00 net.

Miss Condé has taught thousands and inspired tens of thousands in personal contact with them in conferences and other meetings. She is a great personality in serious earnest. This volume brings within the reach of tens of thousands more the results of her study and experience. Personal evangelism is here to be understood as including all forms of personal work aiming at the origination and development of Christian experience and service. The work begins with four chapters developing "The Challenge to Service". "Guiding Principles" are explicated in five chapters. These principles are discussed in the methods of their application to ten types of subjects, including the worker himself as a subject.

The treatment is based fundamentally on the Scriptures which are pertinently applied and pointedly explained. The work will serve splendidly to equip the worker for souls in behalf of Christ and humanity. Each chapter has a splendid, succinct outline of its topic, followed by a "Bible Study" whose specific topic while not the same as that of the chapter is always intimately related to it.

The whole is rich in thought, in spirit, in range of culture and vision.

A sort of appendix provides a list of "References for Reading", one to six books for each chapter. These include some of the best works in their line. Of course others might have been added and no two of us would make the same selections.

The work is exactly adapted to group study classes, but equally may be used by any worker in private study. W. O. CARVER.

My Reminiscences (273 pp.) and **Personality** (220 pp.). By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. New York, 1917. The Macmillan Company. \$1.50 and \$1.35 net.

The charm of Tagore for the West arises partly out of curiosity concerning the foremost representative of the mystic East known to us. But even more is it in his literary style, masterful in simple beauty and natural clarity. Then in the still deeper sources of interest we discover one of the most remarkable combinations of child and philosopher to be found anywhere. Again our busy, rushing West when it does sit down to catch its breath, loves to be talked to in a language different from that of its busy rushing day and Tagore talks that different speech. He takes us quietly off to one side and, bidding us forget the whirr of busy economics, the jostle of rushing commercialism, the precision of defining sciences, he talks in easy quietude about the things of the life of the spirit. To be sure if we know much of the spirit we shall be missing some of the things we think most important. We shall often be unable to accept the viewpoint of our philosopher prophet. But all the while we shall be charmed and stimulated—stimulated with that quiet arousing that enters not into controversy but raises questions that enlarge vision and experience without leaving our own base and centre.

In his *Reminiscences* Tagore follows the way of the mystical Hindu. He makes no strenuous effort to disentangle the historic facts from the accumulated interpretations and sentiments in which the soul has enwrapped the facts in the fulfilling years. Imagination collaborates with memory and the picture is as much interpretation as history. But even so we have true "reminiscences", only not as we ordinarily think of that term.

The growth of a remarkable personality in the natural scenes, the social environment, the home life of India in the last half of the nineteenth century will bring to the reader far more than the account of how one important life came to be. One will see extensively into the interplay of British and Indian factors as they merge in the stream of modern influence in this large section of our race. The "atmos-