

BOOK REVIEWS

I. RELIGION AND APOLOGETICS.

Studies in the Religions of the East. By Alfred S. Geden, M. A., D.D., Tutor in Hebrew and Biblical Literature at the Wesleyan College, Richmond; vice-president of the British and Foreign Bible Society; author of "Outlines of Introduction to the Hebrew Bible"; translator of P. Deussen's "Philosophy of the Upanishads," London, Charles H. Kelly, 1913. XV-|-904 pp. 12s. net.

These lectures were designed for students in the Wesleyan College where Dr. Geden teaches and are especially well suited for that sort of use. They are elementary so far as their initial assumptions go but are more comprehensive and go further in the interpretation of religion and the religions than other works designed to serve as introductions to the religions of the East. They are not limited to modern religions, but the religion of Egypt is treated, and that of Assyria and Babylonia as well.

No sharp distinction is observed among the modern religious sciences. Rather, as is desirable for students just taking up this study, we have here history of religion, philosophy, and psychology, and comparative study of religion.

Copious notes and references indicate the breadth of study underlying the work and will guide the student in further study, to which he is also directed by bibliographies with each chapter.

The basal attitude of the work is conservative but the sympathy with the religious life and expression of men is full and unhampered.

It would be possible to dissent from specific statements here and there, *e. g.*, in the treatment of "Totemism" and in the basal feature of religion in China where the author follows the usual way of connecting the Taoism of popular superstition with the teaching of Lao. Among the basal doctrines of Buddhism, Trishna is omitted or obscured. But the work is remarkably

satisfactory for its purpose; and for such as want a fuller and more adequate work than the current handbooks this is easily the first choice.

W. O. CARVER.

Personality and Fellowship. By William Bradfield, B. A. Published for the Fernley Lecture Trust by the Methodist Book Concern, New York and Cincinnati. 211 pp. \$1.25 net.

The dominant feature of the conquering philosophy of our day, as it must be of all days when men think deeply, is personality. The dominant feature of practical ethics by which men in our generation are taking up the task of "making truth" is fellowship, the unity of mankind involving the impossibility of growing complete personality except in a personal society wherein each soul perceives and responds to the personal environment.

The present volume gives a religious basis and sanction to these fundamental features of the vital thought of our time. Mr. Bradfield has written from the standpoint of a Methodist (Wesleyan) with primary concern for developing in the Methodist consciousness its relation to the demands of the world today and developing in the Methodist conscience responsibility for rightly adjusting the two factors of the personality—experiential salvation—and fellowship in the corporate body of Christ.

He thinks the "class-meeting" is the point of approach for Methodists to the task, and that Methodists have an especially advantageous position in doctrine and history for contributing to the Christianity of the day the true correlation of personal experience and fellowship in the one Catholic Church, which is the body of Christ.

Wholly apart from the denominational interest of the writer the reader will find here a devout, conservative and very valuable discussion of some of the most urgent needs of the Christianity of our day. It is at once a study in philosophy and a spiritual appeal to the best in religious experience.

W. O. CARVER.

Henri Bergson; An Account of His Life and Philosophy. By Algo Rube and Nancy Margaret Paul. Macmillan, London and New York, 1914. viii-]-245 pp. 50 cents net.