

Studies in Mark's Gospel. By Professor A. T. Robertson, M.A., D.D., LL.D., Chair of New Testament Interpretation, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. New York, 1919, The Macmillan Company. 146 pp. \$1.25.

This collection of eleven essays presents a fairly complete and comprehensive discussion and general exposition of Mark. The essays were all published in various magazines in 1918, and so occupy a common viewpoint. The varying character of the publications for which they were prepared occasions some variation in method. All are scholarly. Some are quite technical. Critical scholarship is everywhere in evidence and in some chapters very prominent. Perhaps Dr. Robertson's spiritual enthusiasm is more tempered by the critically scholarly motive here than in most of his smaller works. Yet there is no lack of evangelical earnestness.

Nothing from the professor's prolific pen better combines breadth of scholarly knowledge and independent expository ability. It is within the range of any preacher or student who is concerned with the scholarly investigations concerning gospel origins.

One thinks the publishers might have done better by the work with a more attractive volume. W. O. CARVER.

II. RELIGION AND BIOGRAPHY.

The History of Religions. By E. Washburn Hopkins, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology, Yale University. New York, 1918, The Macmillan Company. 624 pp. \$3.00 net.

To cover the field of religious history in a single volume, even of generous proportions, is a task of supreme difficulty. Such an undertaking imposes upon the author a method of condensation and direct affirmation that inevitably result in a tone of dogmatism and of finality which may be far from representing one's actual feeling. Under such circumstances the writer has to adopt certain principles of history and development and of the inter-relation of religion and seek to speak always in consistency with these principles.

Dr. Hopkins has the scholarly equipment needful for such a work. He has written in a way clearly to present his interpretation of the great mass of fact in the history of religions. I would not myself accept exactly his basal principles and so would sometimes differ from his interpretations. In particular do I dissent from his theory of Christian origins and his views as to the present tendency and duty of

Christians. Still I marvel at the vast amount of material of Christian history so clearly and well stated in the few pages available for this.

In general the survey is a very fine one. At many places it is doubtful whether a reader not already familiar with the main features would quite comprehend what is written. But such familiar reader would find great advantage in the form of presentation, in added information and in suggested interpretation.

It is a work of first importance for general study of the religious development of humanity.

W. O. CARVER.

Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics. Edited by James Hastings, with the Assistance of John A. Selbie, M.A., D.D., and Louis M. Gray, M.A., Ph.D. Volume X, Picts—Sacraments. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons; Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark, 1919. xx-|-915 pp. \$7.00.

Thus this enormous undertaking draws on toward completion. What a service Dr. Hastings has rendered and is rendering to scholarship and to religion in his Dictionaries and Encyclopedias! Grateful congratulations will come to him from all the ends of the earth when he completes this monumental task.

These volumes have been described in a general way in this Review as they appeared. The plan and general character are now known to most of our readers. One may name a few topics in this volume: "Pilgrimage", "Pilgrim Fathers", "Possession", "Pragmatism", "Prayer", "Preaching", "Presbyterianism", "Priest and Priesthood", "Prophecy", "Purification", "Qur'an", "Race", "Reformation", "Regeneration", "Revelation", "Russian Church", "Sabbath".

Young Men and Prayer. By Thomas C. Richards. The Pilgrim Press, Boston, 1918. 81 pp. 60 cts.

Prayer is not the peculiar function of "the saint" nor the exclusive privilege of the pious. Little children pray, and the old delight in communion with God. But the prayers of those in active life, in the crises of conduct and conflict are the prayers that link a struggling world to conquering power. If we can teach young men to pray we can save the world.

This little book will help. By the example of strong men who prayed and achieved, by explanation of *Why Men Pray*, and then in a series of suggested Prayers for Young Men in the various determinative experiences of their lives, Mr. Richards has brought guidance and encouragement in a form that normal young men will appreciate and accept.

W. O. CARVER.