

**Harvard Theological Studies, Volume X, Russian Dissenters.** By Frederick C. Conybeare. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. 370 pp. Price \$4.00.

While the author disclaims that this is a work of original research, yet he has given us in a single volume more information about Russian dissenters than can be found elsewhere. Dr. Conybeare preserves his reputation for fairness, hard work and breadth of scholarship in an admirable manner in this study. The book is divided into three parts. Part I has six chapters under the general heading, "The Old Believers of Great Russia." These chapters in order deal with "The Conditions Leading to Schism," "The Early Days of the Schism," "The Dispersion," "The Priestless Sect," "The Question of Marriage" and "The Organization, Legal Position and Numbers of the Raskol."

Part II is a discussion of the "Rationalist Sects of South Russia," while Part III deals with the "Mystic Sects." In discussing the "Dissenters" much light is thrown upon the whole history of Russia. Students of Church History will welcome this volume as giving in definite form and space a wealth of material that otherwise would require untold labor in its acquisition, much of which could never be gotten by the average student.

F. M. POWELL.

#### V. SOCIOLOGY AND ETHICS.

**Democracy in America.** By Jerome Dowd, M. A., Professor of Sociology, University of Oklahoma. The Harlow Publishing Co., Oklahoma City, 1921. 491 pp.

Prof. Dowd does not undertake in this volume an independent discussion of American Democracy. He has brought together extracts from the writings of many men, and himself makes practically no contribution to the discussion beyond the connecting remarks. A book of this kind has its value. He certainly

has brought together many of the brightest and best things that have been said concerning the various phases of American life, and has thus composed a very readable and, in some respects, informing volume. He draws upon De Tocqueville more largely than upon any other student of our life; but he has evidently laid nearly all the literature upon America under contribution. The compilation will serve a good purpose. But still one may question whether the present crisis in our life would not be better served by an original discussion in the light of present world conditions.

C. S. GARDNER.

**System der Ethik.** Von Reinhold Seeberg. Zweite, neuarbeitete Auflage. Leipzig. A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung. 1920.

As we are told in the preface, this edition of Dr. Seeberg's book has been re-written and enlarged, in order that he might bring it up to date and discuss the ethical problem of life in the light of recent world events. Naturally an American takes up such a book by such an authority with a decidedly curious as well as sympathetic interest.

The book is divided into two general parts. In the first are discussed the fundamental problems and the method of ethics, and the historical development of ethics under the Christian system. The second part is divided into three sections—dealing with the content, the development and the social application of Christian ethics. The discussion is throughout scholarly and thoughtful and for the most part convincing.

I was naturally interested mainly in what is said concerning the social application of Christian ethics, and this comprises nearly one-half of the book.

The author is conservative in this as in other parts of the discussion. He maintains the right of private property; but condemns the excesses of capitalism. He exhibits the intense nationalism of the German spirit and maintains that intense patriotism is consistent with the ethics of Christianity; but insists upon the Christian obligation of good will toward other