

VII. SOCIOLOGY AND ETHICS.

Labor's Crisis—An Employer's View of Labor Problems. By Sigmund Mendelsohn. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. 171 pp.

This is a very conservative and intelligent discussion of our most acute problems, from the point of view of the employer. But, though intelligent, the book does not indicate that the author has a very broad grasp of the present crisis. He does not seem to perceive the magnitude and depth of the issue. And no constructive suggestions of moment are made. A qualified commendation of profit sharing is about as far as the author goes. He discusses, also with qualified approbation, welfare work by employers. But he nowhere indicates that he has seriously considered industrial democracy as a remedy for the acute situation. On the whole, while it is interesting to follow his reasoning on the subject, the author cannot be said to have made any important contribution to the discussion of the problem.

CHARLES S. GARDNER.

The Bible Doctrine of Society—Its Historical Evolution. By Charles Ryder Smith, B. A., D. D., Edinburgh. T. & T. Clark, 1920. 400 pp.

This is one of the most comprehensive and thorough studies in Biblical sociology which has come to the notice of this reviewer. As to the point of view from which the book is written, the author tells us in the introduction that "broadly speaking it is evolutionary, idealist and Christian." The writer believes that in ethics there is a gradual discovery of a distant ideal and a gradual advance of practice towards it. He thinks that the course of its development is not accidental but providential—and that the ideal is "real," both "eternally" in the mind of

God and historically in the life of Jesus. And he holds that ethics is "organically imperfect without theism."

Certainly the work is scholarly, covering some questions more thoroughly than I have seen it done elsewhere; and, while the author's attitude, as indicated above, is such as can not be approved unqualifiedly by orthodox readers, yet his spirit is reverent, especially in his discussion of the New Testament.

The book is quite unique in combining in one treatment the sociological doctrine of the Old and the New Testament. This method has some obvious advantages and brings out the continuity of that teaching better than the method of separate treatment.

A really able and informing book.

C. S. GARDNER.

The Soul of John Brown (English edition, Children of the Slaves).
By Stephen Graham. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920.
331 pp. 12s net. \$2.50.

This is a book written by an Englishman who came to America after the war and traveled through the South to study the negro problem on the ground. He tells the story of what he saw and heard and moralizes thereon. It is not necessary to call in question any of the facts which he relates in order to say truly that he seriously misrepresents the whole situation. He evidently started his journey with a preconception of the negro and of the white man's relation to him; and he quite naturally sees and emphasizes everything accordingly. Those aspects of the racial situation which do not fit in with his preconception seem for the most part to have escaped his attention. When observed, they are lightly passed over. The situation is bad enough, I freely and sadly grant. There is a great deal of injustice in the attitude of multitudes of white men toward the negro. The negroes suffer many wrongs and there is a deep and ominous unrest among them. This is all true; but such books as this do not help the situation. We do not wish to be discourteous, but this unfair