

The "Decalogue" is treated with critical freedom but ethical appreciation by L. W. Batten.

Other articles of primary importance are "Deification;" "Deluge;" "Demons and Spirits" (71 pages); "Descent to Hades," by Friedrich Loofs, in 15 pages of critical, comparative and historical discussion; "Disciples of Christ," very briefly done by Prof. Herbert L. Willitt in a single page; "Disease and Medicine," 50 pages; "Divination," 56 pages; "Docetism;" "Doubles;" "Drama."

W. O. CARVER.

The Mysteries of Mithra. By Franz Cumont, Prof. in University of Ghent, Belgium. Translated from the Second Revised French Edition, by Thos. J. McCormack. Sec. ed. Open Court Publishing Co. 1910. Pages, 239.

Cumont has given more attention to the religion of Mithra than any other living scholar, having traveled widely, visiting its monuments, and having worked on the subject for many years. His *Textes et Monuments figurés relatifs aux mystères de Mithra* is the most important work ever published on the subject. The present volume consists of the "Conclusions" to that great work. In this form it first appeared in 1900, and soon ran into a second edition. In its English form, translated from the second edition, it is provided with a map and some fifty cuts and illustrations.

His long study has naturally made Cumont an enthusiast on Mithraism. It seems to the reviewer very probable that an importance is assigned to the place and significance of this religion in the Occident which it never really had. The author confesses to the necessity of drawing largely on his imagination, and it is a powerful one. That Mithraism was widely diffused over the Western Roman Empire and was very influential is proven beyond all dispute. Temples and monuments dedicated to Mithra have been found in all regions where the Romans, and especially the Roman armies, went. In the opinion of the reviewer it is not likely that the religion of Mithra was ever really a rival of Christianity with the masses of religious people, and yet it was undoubtedly very influential in the army and the government, especially in

the third Christian century. The history of this religion constitutes a very interesting chapter in the missionary history of religion, for it was one of the few non-Christian religions which were missionary. All who are interested in the history of religion will find this volume interesting, and, if read with care to distinguish between the facts and the author's fancies, very helpful and instructive.

W. J. McGLATHLIN.

The Religions of Modern Syria and Palestine. Lectures delivered before Lake Forest College on the Foundation of the Late William Bross. By Frederick Jones Bliss, Ph.D., author of "Excavations at Jerusalem, 1894-1897," "The Development of Palestine Exploration," etc. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1912. xiv+354 pages. \$1.50, net.

Born in Syria and spending much of his life there, the author has had abundant opportunity to know his subject. That he has improved that opportunity is evident. But he has not depended alone upon information gained in this general way. He has read widely in preparation of the lectures. Before delivering them, he made a tour of the land with this special purpose in view, and again before publishing the lectures they were revised in the light of a second tour of Syria. The result is a work of much learning on a country of growing importance in the life of the world and in the progress of missions. One chapter is devoted to "the historic setting," two to "the Eastern Churches," three to Islam, and one to "the influence of the West." It will be recognized that Jews, Druses, Musiriyeh and Isma'iliyeh, as well as some less important cults are omitted. The author explains that this was due to excess of material for the limits of the volume and promises this material at some later time. It would perhaps have been better to condense and eliminate even further than has been done and include all in the one volume. The work as it stands, however, is rich in details of sources and illustrations of facts which will enhance its value for thorough and scientific students. The questions that relate to Protestant Missions are, as might be expected, treated with fairness and frankness.

The book is Volume V of the Bross Library.

W. O. CARVER.