

Mithraism. By W. J. Pythian-Adams, M.A., (Oxon). Chicago, 1915. The Open Court Publishing Company. 95 pp. 40 cts.

Of all the "mystery religions" of the early Christian Era, and just preceding, none has of late been so much *in vogue* with certain students of religion and of the rise of Christianity as Mithraism. This little handbook is written with great care, and an honest effort is made to tell a great deal without transcending the limits of ascertained facts and evidence. The net result for the careful reader is that thus far we know almost nothing of Mithraism and the very extensive writing about it is mainly based on imagination. This little volume is itself full of shrewd guesses and skillful inductions, but they are honestly labeled and the reader need not be misled by them. Everyone interested in this religion that in the Roman army so stoutly antagonized the progress of Christianity will do well to get this clear and frank statement of all that can yet be known about it, or fairly guessed.

W. O. CARVER.

A Trip to the Orient: Leaves from the Note-Book of Alice Pickford Brockway. Philadelphia, 1915. The Griffith and Rowland Press. 83 pp. 50 cts. net.

This is exactly what its secondary title says "leaves from a note-book." The traveler was alert, interested, intelligent and besides her observations and experiences recorded also certain of her reflections and some of the stories told her by missionaries on the field. And she had a good camera. The result is not a literary volume but a familiar, friendly report of a journey we all would delight in. It is therefore most readable.

IV. THEOLOGY AND APOLOGETICS.

Die Wahrheit des Apostolischen Glaubensbekenntniss. von Zwölf deutschen Theologen. Dorffling & Franke. Leipzig, 1914. 197 pp. 3 m.

If one desires a witness to the claim that a strong evangelical faith still exists in Germany, this volume will serve the purpose.

The editor of a Lutheran church paper requested twelve German theologians to write articles on the Apostles' Creed. These were published as articles and now they appear in book form. A few sentences from the letter written to the theologians taken from the *foreword* will indicate the motive which led to the publication: "The attack upon the Apostles' Creed, the oldest confession which to us along with Roman Catholic Christians is yet binding, has become so general that there is very widespread unrest. This arises in part from the assertion that no scientific theologian any longer takes the Apostles' Creed seriously. In the higher and lower institutions of learning this idea is worked with vigor, and already a strong effort is being made to force it out of the public worship and by this means out of the life also of Christians. It need not be said that in this way a deadly assault against the heart of our Christian people is in progress." Then follows an appeal to scholars to lend their pens and voices to the cause of the defense of the faith. Thus the book is a very significant and interesting index to the present state of religious affairs in Germany. Rationalism and naturalism, ruling in many places in German schools, have gradually created an acute crisis in the religious situation. This appears in the tone of many of these articles. The words "science" and "scientific" are words to conjure with for the modern man. This has been particularly the case in Germany. But books of this kind show that the words are by no means to be employed as the exclusive designation of the anti-Christian and anti-evangelical type of opinion which has arisen in recent years through the unwarranted demands of physical and historical science of a rather narrow and provincial type.

The writers are representative and strong men in the realm of German scholarship including such names as Professors Grutzmacher, Althaus, Ihmels, Bachmann, Weber, and others. Professor Ihmels of Leipzig writes on the Resurrection of Christ and frankly and squarely and fully recognizes that the first faith of the New Testament Church had, as its cornerstone, belief in the resurrection of Jesus. This general conclusion to Professor Ihmels' discussion is very interesting. In brief it is as follows:

Our sources know nothing of any save a corporeal resurrection of Jesus. Yet we have a strong religious interest in the fact. First of all no resurrection other than of a corporeal one can have the power of a historical fact. The word of Jesus on the cross, "It is finished," remains without a Divine answer. The grave then holds the last word against the extraordinary claim with which Jesus went to death. In the second place, we can have no clear conception of the existence of Jesus apart from the bodily resurrection. Besides this, in the third place, the guaranty for our own corporeal resurrection is gone. To question the value of our corporeal nature is to question whether it would not have been better for man if he had been created other than he is.

Many of these chapters will repay careful perusal and will bring tonic to the faltering faith of some who have been dazzled by the claims of a science too sectarian in character to deal fairly with many great spiritual realities.

E. Y. MULLINS.

Die Wahrheit des Christusglaubens mit Eniem Anhnag über die Eigenart des Christliches Gottesglaubens. von Professor D. Carl Stange, Göttingen, 126 ss. M. 2.80, gebunden M. 3.50.

Die angefochtenen Grundwahrheiten des Apostolikums; verteidigt von Lic. theol. Dr. phil, Hermann Gosch. Ss. 118 M. 3. Both published by A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Werner School, Leipzig, 1915.

The evangelical theologians of Germany have held out vigorously against the prevailing rationalism and these two volumes in defense of the Christian fundamentals are able and timely. It will be seen, even from the titles, that they both grip the truth of the unity of Christian doctrine, a point coming into large prominence in current Christian Apologetics.

Stange takes up the Incarnation, the uniqueness of the personality of Jesus, the historical fact of the Resurrection and its significance, the Atonement, the death of Jesus and faith in Christ; with the appendix on the unity of the Christian faith. Gosch takes up in order the articles of the Apostles' Creed.