

there can be, no such thing. The author of the present volume is a member of that free school of thinkers who seek to trace history by the interaction of various forces and influences on a basis fundamentally evolutionary. This school are overfond of novelty but are at great pains to give scholarly evaluation to all the factors.

In the earlier period, Professor Walker gives far too much weight to the apocalyptic element, as he goes quite too far in defining separate types of thought in the interpretation of Jesus.

One could wish that so new, independent and fresh a handling of the material had broken somewhat more with the established way of placing such extensive emphasis on the history of doctrine, of ecclesiastical forms and of the formal side generally of Christianity. One wants more of missionary expansion, of inner spiritual experience and development and of worship. The balance has not been well preserved by our church historians in the past and is not restored in this volume.

By no means, however, would one suggest that we have here a dry assembling of dates and details. The work is very readable and has the thrill of life in all its pages.

The author is a man of broad sympathies, aiming at appreciation of all the elements that have made the past and are making the future of Christianity. Withal, his spirit is optimistic, which is right in an historian.

The reader will find here a good panoramic picture of the life of Christianity which is as much as any single volume can give. The gift of vitalizing the multitude of facts in history is a great one and is expressed here.

W. O. CARVER.

The Conversion of Europe. By Charles Henry Robinson, D. D., Hon. Canon of Ripon and Editorial Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Longmans, Green & Co. London and New York, 1917. 640 pp. Cloth, \$6.00.

Dr. Robinson in this volume has given us a thesaurus of information respecting the spreading of Christianity in Europe. The countries are taken, in general, in the order in which Christianity became generally established as the religion of its peoples. Those unacquainted with the facts may be surprised, therefore, to find Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales and France as first treated and in that order. The last chapter but one, of over thirty pages, deals with the Jews.

The most interesting chapters of all are the first and the last—the introductory and the conclusion—for in them the author sums up the main lessons to be drawn from their histories and their bearing on missionary work today.

He is emphatic in recognizing the unwisdom of Christianizing nations by force and sees in that bad practice the explanation of Europe's sorry condition today. The nations are not really Christian. It is not often, moreover, one finds an Anglican writer using language like the following respecting Constantine's influence: "We can entertain little doubt that the compromise between paganism and Christianity which he effected was disastrous of the best interests of the Christian Church."

There is much interesting biography, much that tells of noble Christian heroism and devotion, and not a little to make one sadder and wiser. It is a valuable compendium that scholars will wish to have and which no large library should be without. There is added a bibliography of more than thirty pages. I note that Cathcart's "Ancient British and Irish Churches" is not on the list—a perhaps significant omission. For throughout there seems to run the quiet assumption that the Church polity of the early centuries was all episcopal, though the fact quoted from Harnack that by 300 A. D. "almost every town of any considerable size in Italy had a bishop or at any rate a Christian community", suggests that bishops were rather like our pastors than Anglican bishops.

J. H. FARMER.

A Tour of the Missions: Observations and Conclusions. By Augustus Hopkins Strong, D.D., LL.D., President Emeritus of the Rochester Theological Seminary. Philadelphia, 1918. xxii-|-223 pp. \$1.50 net.

Dr. Strong tells here in the familiar way of a man of full experience and rather objective looking on what he saw in various missions as he journeyed among them in easy fashion; and then gives us some essays on such topics as "The Renaissance of India", "Missions and Scripture", "Scripture and Missions", "The Theology of Missions", "Missions and Missionaries". The accounts of travel and the experiences in various places and the comments on men and matters are very engaging reading and often shed new light on situations.

The essays constitute an argument and plea for the old theology and the evangelical faith.

It all shows the unflinching vigor of this man of God who has been a tower of strength for so many years.

W. O. CARVER.

Ancient Times. A History of the Early World. By James Henry Breasted, Ph.D. Ginn & Company. Boston. 762 pp. \$1.60.

Dr. Breasted has written an astonishingly able and interesting textbook for the first year in high school. The maps and pictures on every page all to the charm of the book. It aims to trace the history of man