

ness and doubt. His treatment of the economic, political, commercial and governmental conditions of the world is excellent, but when he turns to the religious situation, the volume is disappointing. Many shortcomings of the church are pointed out in dogmatic statements, without an iota of proof, such as "What ails her (the church) is that she is maintaining a world-view, with its accompanying scale of values, which belongs to the out-moded order of ideas". The appeal is for a larger place of RATIONALISM in our religion. This crops out throughout the pages in such expressions as, "Jesus, ethical, and spiritual flower of our humanity, is, *ipso facto*, chief witness to, expression of, the character of Divine Being; hence since that Being works in and through us all, we differ from the Lord Jesus in immeasurable degree, but not in kind." The nearest answer to the question of the title is in the following summary: "What the church needs then for her salvation is a new accession of faith. If she will say, in the spirit of her founder: We believe that this is a friendly and intelligible universe where free inquiry is a part of its order and questions bring results; we do not fear that man's ethical and spiritual life will dwindle even though its outer forms and garments are utterly changed; we believe that holiness and goodness are eternal elements in the world, and by their very nature, unconquerable and not dependent upon Greek Christologies, old codes and mediæval philosophies, that faith will save her." Whether or not we agree with the author, the volume is well worth studying, and the first six chapters are especially suggestive to the busy pastor.

HENRY W. TIFFANY.

**The Spiritual Meaning of "In Memoriam".** By James Main Dixon, of the University of Southern California. Abingdon Press, New York. 173 pp. \$1.00.

This is a fresh and original interpretation of the greatest poem of the foremost poet of the Victorian age. It is true to its title, and yet is more than that. The author presents the

religious experience of Tennyson by interpretations of certain sections of the poem, many of which have a new meaning with the added light. Not only is it an interpretation of the poem, but also of the philosophy underlying it, in comparison, or contrast, with the philosophies of Goethe, Nietzsche, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Plato, Michiavelli, Treitschke, etc. One marvels that so much can be placed within so small a compass. Tennyson is especially the poet for the preacher, and no minister can afford to be without this handbook. We crave time to study Tennyson anew with Professor Dixon's book as our interpreter. We commend it unreservedly to the brotherhood.

HENRY W. TIFFANY.

**Productive Beliefs.** By Lynne Harold Hough. Cole Lectures for 1919. Fleming H. Revell Co. 223 pp. \$1.50.

This is the second edition of these lectures, which is sufficient proof of their value. Thoughtful men find the faith stated here in a simple workable, understandable way. Dr. Hough is a brilliant thinker. He has a style all his own, beautiful yet meaningful. A reading of any one of these six lectures will pay one for purchasing the book. Books of this type are indeed productive. May their number increase.

H. C. WAYMAN.

#### IV. OLD TESTAMENT.

**The Psalms—A Doctrinal Commentary.** By Rev. J. Elder Cumming, D. D. Three volumes. 3 shillings each. The Religious Tract Society.

This work is not a critical study, but a devotional commentary. In this respect it stands almost alone among the many commentaries on the Psalms. The author shows himself a