

times almost unintelligible. Harnack's clear and beautiful German sentences are ruined by a too slavish imitation in the translation. The latter part of the book is much better.

Enchiridion or Hand Book of the Christian Doctrine and Religion. Compiled (by the grace of God) from the Holy Scriptures for the benefit of all lovers of the truth. By Dietrich Phillip. Translated from the German and carefully compared with the Dutch (in which language the book was originally written), by A. B. Bolk. Elkhart, Ind. 1910. Mennonite Publishing Co. Pages 539.

Next to Menno Simons himself Philip was the most important of the early leaders of the Mennonites. He was pious, active and learned. His writings have been highly prized among the religious body to which he belonged, having been translated into German and French but until the present time they have not appeared in English. The translator has, therefore, rendered a distinct service, not only to his own communion, but to all who would know the fundamental teachings of this earnest and godly Christian body. The reviewer has had no opportunity to compare the translation with the original or with other translations; but it is fairly smooth and is no doubt well done. The writings themselves are well worth reading, for, although there is much that is polemical in them, still there is deep piety, genuine religious feeling and wide acquaintance with the Scriptures.

Baptist Confessions of Faith. By W. J. McGlothlin, Ph.D., D.D., Professor of Church History in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, author of "A Guide to the Study of Church History," etc. Philadelphia, 1911. American Baptist Publication Society. xii+368 pages. \$2.50 net.

Baptists have for a long time professed contempt for "creeds," and most of them have been ignorant of their own confessional history. Yet no facts concerning the predecessors of modern Baptists could be of much more value to them than a knowledge of what was professed by them in various countries and at different times. This information, in a tolerably complete measure, is for the first time here made accessible to

the Baptists and to other people. Heretofore only men of research could know the facts.

Dr. McGlothlin has been at much pains to collect all available material on the subject. The limits of space required the omission of some material that he desired to include; he was not in every case able to reach the original sources; and he modestly bids us to expect errors in detail. The confessions in other than the English language have been translated, but the effort has been made to enable the reader to know the appearance of the confessions as at first published.

A very brief, but highly illuminating "Introduction" outlines the history of creed making in Christianity. Historical introductions and brief expositions set forth the circumstances under which the various confessions were adopted and so the reader is enabled to see the meaning and understand the form of statement where in many cases these would be quite unintelligible or easily misunderstood. Dr. McGlothlin begins with the forerunners of the English and other modern Baptists, giving us in *Parts One and Two* confessions and professions of Anabaptists and Mennonites. *Part Three* treats of English Baptists under the two classes "A" *Arminian*, "B" *Calvinistic*. *Part Four* treats of the same two classes, in the inverse order, of American Baptists. *Part Five* groups "Confessions of Other Nationalities," including German, French, Swedish, etc.

Later editions will call for some revisions and let us hope additions of materials now necessarily omitted; but the publication is epoch-making in Baptist historical literature. Those who essay leadership of divisions among Baptist people will henceforth be criminally ignorant if they fail to study the history of Baptist differences and fellowship.

Baptist confessional history is full of instruction for all those who would rightly apprehend the place of Christianity in the State and the forms of the faith most likely to meet the demands of our modern democratic ideals in civil and religious life. For all such the needful information is now made accessible.

W. O. CARVER.