

He sees in personality the real meaning of, the key to, the cosmic process. From the humblest beginnings he traces the upward movement of life till it arrives at personality, and this he follows in its development, in its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, and on into its consummation in immortality.

Dr. Smyth is acquainted with the best scientific and philosophical literature bearing upon the different phases of his great theme; and makes a critical and discriminating use of it. The conclusion he reaches is, from the point of view of this reviewer, satisfactory for the most part. The world-view to which he thinks the facts lead is what he calls "personal realism." Human personality is real; nature is real; God is real. "Individual personality is both real and ideal, or, more truly it might be said, both realizing and idealizing. It is both created and creative. It inherits its world as already existing for it, and recreates it after its own ideas. It is both effect and cause; both the issue of the past and a maker of the future. It has come forth from the whole of reality that was before it; it continues to be as an individual variable in the midst of the constants of nature."

The book is good, healthful, stimulating reading in these days when what were once considered the very foundations are being attacked from various directions. While here and there exception might be taken to some of his assumptions, or to some of his processes of reasoning, or to some of his criticisms of different views, the book on the whole makes a happy impression. The author, fairly facing the serious issues raised by modern science and working in a truly scientific spirit, is a man of broad intellectual outlook who finds in the scientific work of our time confirmation of the fundamentals of religious faith.

C. S. GARDNER.

Quiet Talks with the Family. By Charles Edward Jefferson, Pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle Church in New York. New York, 1916. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. 187 pp. \$1.00 net.

A subject more urgently important could not present itself in our day and one would not ask a more competent man than Dr. Jefferson to present it. "The Family in Modern Life," is

having a hard time of it. The forces of education and of religion tend very largely to ignore the family and there are many features of our social and economic life that tend to destroy not only the power and influence of the home but the home itself. Dr. Jefferson gives no elaborate discussion of these facts and factors. Elaborate discussion is not his way. But he points them out with delicate and firm touch and makes his appeal in the most convincing and persuasive way. Then follow talks to the various members of the family. There is indeed a 'quietness' in it all that summons to meditation, to prayer. The book cannot fail to throw a holy spell of gentle seriousness over the reader and to open up his life to the influences that bring purity and strength. The book will help to make the family what it ought to be—what it must be if our modern life is to be saved from rushing itself into suicide in the eager chase for pleasure, sensation, wealth and power.

W. O. CARVER.

Just for Fun. By Helen J. Currier. A Collection of Games and Entertainments for use in the Home and Church. Philadelphia, The Griffith and Rowland Press, 1916. 165 pp. 50c.

There are some new ideas and some old ones in this handy little volume and it will be valuable on many occasions. It is very well done and there are times when all of us want just this sort of thing.

III COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND MISSIONS.

China—An Interpretation. By James W. Bashford, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Resident in China. New York and Cincinnati, 1916. The Abingdon Press. 620 pp. \$2.50 net.

Dr. Bashford writes with a free hand and deals with the assurance of a master with the essential phases of China's life and relations. The style is lucidity itself, and the work is presented in mechanical form that allures the reader. The author has not merely recorded for us personal observations and reflections on the one hand, nor on the other hand has he given us a compendium of the contents of good books and magazine articles. He