

Roman Ideas of Deity in the Last Century before the Christian Era.
By W. Warde Fowler, M.A. Macmillan, 1914. 167 pp. \$1.40 net.

The author is already well known in the realm of Roman religious and social history. His books on "The Religious Experience of the Roman People," "Roman Festivals," and "Social Life at Rome" are among the very best volumes on Roman life in the periods covered. The present volume deals with the last pre-Christian century—for its influence on the history of Christianity the most important of the Roman centuries. The work is concise, but clear, accurate and illuminating. In five lectures the author deals with the household gods, the gods of the State, the cosmic gods and the idea of the man-god with the deification of Caesar. In the final lecture he treats the "Degradation of the Idea of Deity in the Augustan Age."

In the chapter on Jupiter and the tendency to monotheism he takes the position that monotheism is older among the Romans than polytheism, that the latter is a degeneration from an earlier and purer faith.

The author contends that at least during the century under consideration the Romans did not give way to the ideas of fate and necessity as did the Greeks and at a later period the Romans. The goddess Fortuna simply represented the incalculable element in human life without in any sense fixing life or rendering it capricious and arbitrary. The Roman believed that human character and effort (*virtus*) could largely overcome this incalculable element of luck in the individual and national life.

The author believes there was a very serious degeneration in religious beliefs during the Augustan age. The idea of the deification of a man was not native to Rome, but it took a very firm hold upon the Roman people, and emperor worship became the one required and universal worship of the Empire.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

India, Its Life and Thought. By John P. Jones, D.D., South India; Author of "India's Problem, Krishna or Christ," etc. New York, 1915: The Macmillan Company. xvi+448 pp. \$1.50 net.