

singing *versus* hymn-singing, and other matters of interest to the historian and antiquary. The text of the work would have been more readable if these matters had been relegated to footnotes as the Germans are accustomed to do; but the author, as he tells us in the preface, deliberately chose to put them in the text, believing that in the long run this would be better. Undoubtedly they will be of small value to the average reader, but they ought not to deter hosts of pastors from a careful reading of this most valuable study of the English hymn. Such antiquarian details can be easily omitted by the reader who is interested only in the broader aspects of the subject. For the historian of the inner life of the Church they are indispensable. All classes of readers will find the volume of the highest value.

The work cannot be reviewed in detail. Suffice it to say that its scholarship, its spirit and method, its fairness to all denominations and parties with many of which the author does not sympathize, its objective treatment of the whole complex and difficult theme, is altogether admirable. It ought to have an extensive sale and wide reading. Its circulation and use will be a blessing to the English speaking world.

It is provided with an extensive and admirable index. A bibliography should have been added.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

Did Jesus Command Immersion? An Exhaustive Study of the Word "Baptize." By J. Gilchrist Lawson. Cincinnati, The Standard Pub. Co., 1915. 277 pp. \$1.00.

In the preface the author declares that it has been his intention to make this treatise the most exhaustive, conclusive, and impartial, and at the same time the most condensed, work on the subject of baptism. For this purpose, he has ransacked the leading libraries of America and Europe, and especially the library of the British Museum; and such a fund of information has been condensed into these pages as has never before appeared in any volume on the subject of baptism. Almost every important work on the subject has been at the writer's disposal, and he has availed himself of the information contained in them, always

verifying the quotations from the original sources so far as possible.”

In spite of the prejudice which an introduction like this inevitably arouses the reader will find the book useful. It is a thesaurus of quotations from dictionaries, commentaries, histories, cyclopedias, fathers, liturgies, etc., of all the various Christian denominations as to the act of baptism in the primitive church and its history in succeeding centuries. The array of scholarship as presented is unanimous in favor of immersion as the act or “mode” of baptism. Of course many men of some pretensions to scholarship could be quoted on the other side of the question; and yet as shown here and as every man acquainted with the literature knows, the overwhelming weight of scholarship, ancient and modern, is with the view that immersion was the exclusive practice of the primitive church.

The author could have made his work more useful by arranging his quotations according to some order and giving more extended notes of explanation on the place and significance of the writers whom he quotes. Notwithstanding this defect every one who is seeking quotations on the subject or the act of baptism will find this work of great help to him.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

II. HOMILETICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL.

Criticisms of Life—Studies in Faith, Hope and Despair. By Horace J. Bridges. Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1915. 295 pp. \$1.50.

The Author is a Minister of an Ethical Society. These societies declare, that, “Moral perfection is the only rightful object of worship, and it is equally worthy of unconditional reverence whether it be embodied in a super-human person whose power is infinite, or in the feeblest and least fortunately circumstanced of human beings.” They therefore “assert the supremacy of the Moral Ideal as God above all Gods worshipped of all nations.”