

V. BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

New Testament History and Literature. By Charles B. Williams, B.D., Ph.D., D.D., Dean and Professor of the Greek New Testament and New Testament Theology in the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The Western Baptist Publishing Company, Kansas City, Mo., 1917. 304 pp. \$1.75.

In the first 40 pages of this book are helpfully grounded the facts which are most important for the student to grasp and carry with him for the understanding of New Testament times and their relation to Christianity. In 23 pages is given "A Birds-eye View of the Life of Christ," and 35 pages are devoted to a similar sketch of the early life and the apostolic labors of Paul. The other two-thirds of the book is given to a survey of the New Testament books in their order, and the author has succeeded well in his attempt to give a simple but illuminating introduction to these books. Practically all the great problems in introduction at the present day and the principal solutions which have been proposed are given together with a summary of the arguments for and against them. While Professor Williams' own conclusions are invariably conservative, there can scarcely be criticism of the fairness of his statement of the views which he does not accept. The chief names on both sides of the various theories discussed are constantly mentioned, and in a very helpful way, although it may appear to some that undue importance is given to Baur and the long since dead and gone Tübingen School, and not enough to Harnack who, for example, is not even mentioned in the discussion of the date of Acts. This book may be heartily recommended, not only to theological students, for whom it was presumably prepared, but also to all pastors and Sunday School workers, and, indeed, to any who wish to know more about the New Testament. By its simplicity, accuracy, breadth and fairness, it merits wide use.

D. F. ESTES.

The Consciousness of Jesus. By Horace M. DuBose. The Methodist Book Concern, New York and Cincinnati: Smith and Lamar, Nashville, Tenn., 1917. 144 pp. 75 cts. net.

Here is strong food for such as have thoroughly developed organs for spiritual and mental digestion. One sometimes finds it not easy to determine whether a certain element of profound vagueness, or vague profundity, in a book, is due to extensive condensation or to the author's not yet having quite fully and clearly grasped his subject. Both sources produce the effect. And this book illustrates it. Withal it opens up, if it does not fully work out, a vein of rich thought material. The effort to construe the whole of Christianity in terms of the personality of Jesus Christ in terms of an archetypal divine consciousness realizing itself in a developing human consciousness is an adventure at once into both the profoundest psychology and the subtlest metaphysics. Platonic idealism combines with Hegelian Absolutism and both seek to find expression in the terms of Christian experience. There are many who will find this most fascinating and helpful. It enters into the deepest aspects of the life and work of the Son of God and makes suggestions that are new and most fruitful. One is not always able to accept specific interpretations of Scripture but the main argument is true to the Christ consciousness and to its interpretation by Paul.

It is good to find a new book modern in its attitude but free from the narrow lines of dogmatic criticism.

W. O. CARVER.

Colossians, Ephesians and Hebrews. By B. H. Carroll, D.D., LL.D., President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Edited by J. B. Cranfill, LL.D. New York, 1917. Fleming H. Revell Company, 334 pp.

With this volume the unique "Interpretation of the English Bible" by the late Dr. Carroll comes to completion. Dr. Cranfill rightly rejoices in the completion and glories in the work. He has done splendidly a work of friendship and a labor of love to his denomination. While one must find many interpretations and views herein presented with which he cannot agree, and occasional slips in statement, one must still see how helpful this work can be to very many preachers and private students of the Bible. Dr. Carroll is always interesting, earnest and intense.