

of skepticism—the true skepticism, which tests everything, not the sham sort which credulously accepts anything that seems to discredit the Bible.”

W. O. CARVER.

**The Supreme Problem.** An Examination of Historical Christianity from the Standpoint of Human Life and Experience and in the Light of Psychological Phenomena. By J. Godfrey Raupert. Buffalo, N. Y. 1910. Peter Paul & Son. Pages xx+339. Price \$1.50.

This is a vigorous, clear and valuable effort by a Roman Catholic laymen to meet the skepticism of our times which arises from the claims of physical and psychological sciences. The author thinks that the time demands an examination of “the great historic doctrine of Christianity” “in the light . . . of human experience and of the claims and testimony of the human soul and conscience”.

The author takes “the Creed of the Catholic Church” “as the dogmatic basis” for his argument and examination, because it is the creed of his church and because “no other uniform dogmatic basis is available”. He is mistaken in supposing any uniform dogmatic basis necessary for an apologetic argument and also in thinking of the Creed of the Catholic Church as a “uniform basis”, for certainly it is not uniform, for that Protestant Christendom, wherein is to be found the most active thought and vitality which make necessary and valuable an apologetic. But when our author comes to select the dogmas to be defended and enforced, he selects two that are by no means limited to the Catholic Creed, but belong to essential Christianity. The two are Man’s Fall and his Redemption through Jesus Christ. These are not at all an exclusive or distinctive possession of the Catholic church. It cannot be said that Protestantism as a whole accepts the Catholic dogma of the Fall, but what is essential in that dogma, the fact of sin and man’s need of divine help is common belief of all Christianity. The author devotes about two-thirds of his volume to the doctrine of the Fall, dealing with the modern ideas and urging with vigorous reasons the degrading influence of the fall of man’s intellectual

powers and moral nature and spiritual condition. He then sets forth "The Devil's Dominion Over the Human Race", attributing to the devil and his demons much of the psychic phenomena so occupying the attention of our time.

The last third of the book deals with "The Restoration of Man in Jesus Christ". The author avails himself of Protestant—to use his own term, "Non-Catholic"—experiences and thought as well as those of his own church for testimony to the power of Jesus Christ to give pardon and peace to sinners. Quite needlessly does he encumber his argument with the mystical conceptions of the effectiveness of the sacraments in securing this restoration. While the work is hampered by the author's feeling that he must defend forms of statement and by his habit of thinking in dogmatic terminology he has given us a thoughtful and useful work. It is as good as can be done from the standpoint of defending an archaic creed with arguments founded in modern experience and thought.

That the result is satisfactory would be too much to assert. That the argument is sincere and able any candid reader must see.

W. O. CARVER.

**God's Message Through Modern Doubt.** By Rev. E. Aldom French. London. 1908. Duckworth & Co. Pages ix+236. 2 shillings 6 pence.

There are many in England who are undertaking to defend or to modify Christianity in the face of a powerful and rather rampant skepticism. This author is one of the most frank, brave and practical this reviewer has met in his reading. He tells us in the preface that the idea expressed in his title "is that as skepticism is due to a misunderstanding of Christianity, its existence is a call to the church for restatement, explanation and new emphasis in its message". This explanation of skepticism is incomplete, but the threefold method of meeting it is comprehensive. To restate, to explain, to emphasize, not the dogma, but the message of Christianity; surely that has the accent of a conquering evangel. And our apologist in this