

sincere, frank, courageous and, we may add, Christian way. You may not agree with him altogether, but you'll read him; if you once look into his book, and unless you are a hard case, beyond improvement, you will be helped by him.

GEO. B. EAGER.

The Rural Church Serving the Community. By Edwin L. Earp. The Abingdon Press, New York, Cincinnati, 1918. 144 pp. 75 cts. net.

Professor Earp, of the Chair of Sociology, Drew Theological Seminary, the author of "The Social Engineer" and "Social Aspects of Religious Institutions", gives us here a graphic and hope-inspiring portrayal of rural church life and opportunity. What he writes comes clearly from both experience and expert investigations. Professor Ross, of Wisconsin University, an authority in this realm of study and investigation, says: "The book is well thought out, heavily ballasted with facts, and based upon an analysis of actual conditions and brightened with recommendations of remedies which harmonize with the best contemporary sociology." What "The Independent" says of another of Professor Earp's books is equally applicable to this one: "It abounds in helpful suggestions made in simple terms and enforced by homely illustrations. It will prove of great value in showing the nature and possibilities of leadership in social and community activities on the part of ministers and other religious workers." The South, like any other section of our country, may have its peculiar conditions and problems, but the principles expounded and illustrated by Professor Earp in these volumes will be found applicable and capable of successful application to the concrete cases encountered here as well as to those had in view in other parts of our great country. The chapters on "The Rural-Mindedness of Jesus" and "The Spiritual Call of the Country" are worth more than the price of the volume. They are of the value of pure gold.

GEO. B. EAGER.

The Social Emphasis in Religious Education. By William Irvin Lawrence, Th.D. The Beacon Press, Boston. 123 pp.

This little book is well written, thoughtful, earnest; and grasps in a broad way the acute problem which it discusses. It is the elaboration of a thesis submitted for the Th. D. degree in the Meadville Theological Seminary. It opens with a chapter on "Our Social Relations", in which the author maintains that "man is one with his physical environment, the human personality and the celestial sphere in which that personality exists parts of one society, each limiting and limited by the other." Whether or not this somewhat mystical view of our

social solidarity with the entire universe is strictly scientific or not, it is an attractive philosophical idea.

After discussing fundamental principles as to the material, the method and the atmosphere of religious teaching, he takes up the question as to the curriculum. He outlines a very broad one, including much in literature and history besides the Bible—especially that which is adapted to the development of the social mind in the student, which he conceives to be the main thing to be aimed at in religious education.

Whatever one may think of the author's plan, he has given us a very readable book, which will be suggestive even to those who do not altogether agree with him.

C. S. GARDNER.

God's Responsibility for the War. By Edward S. Brown. The Macmillan Company, New York. 56 pp. 60 cts.

The author ably discusses some of the great questions which perplexed sincere Christians during the ravages of the awful war and which still perplex many. The subject is discussed in five chapters: I. God Before the Judgment Seat of Humanity; II. Why Does God Allow Evil? III. Is God Limited? IV. Power Through Limitation; V. True Omnipotence.

Each subject is presented in a scholarly, philosophic way but at the same time intensely Christian.

The Sword of the Spirit. By Joseph Fort Newton, D.D. George H. Doran Company. 240 pp.

Dr. Newton, minister of the famous City Temple, London, proclaims in these sermons the Eternal Christ as a real seer and as a faithful minister should. He in no uncertain words gives voice to the plea for international Christianity. He is an optimist and rightly so. Christianity has not failed, indeed, cannot, for it rests on the "imperishable principles of Jesus Christ". There are in all twenty-two sermons, any one of them worth the price of the book. Each one in cumulative faith hold before the reader the prophet's vision when "nation will no more rise up against nation, neither shall men learn war any more".

H. C. WAYMAN.

If a Man Die. By J. D. Jones, D.D. George H. Doran Co., New York. 180 pp.

This book is indeed a message of solace and comfort for the stricken. Clear assurance concerning the life beyond is the keynote.