

kuriakon seems clearly to have the meaning current in the papyri. This meaning, too, strengthens the argument of the author.

Instead of the 13th chapter of I Corinthians being as the author says, "a hymn, inserted, in praise of love" etc., it is the very climax of Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts as imperfect and partial. They will pass away when that which is perfect and complete comes in, viz., *agape*.

The Notes, of course, are based on the Revised Version. The statements of the argument and many of the notes especially are excellent.

In every portion of the book ripe scholarship and seasoned judgment are evident. The volume is worthwhile for all who can use it.

W. HERSEY DAVIS.

The Christmas Canticles. By George Elliot, 1922. The Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati. Pages 143. Price \$1.00.

Dr. Elliot has written in a beautiful way about the Canticles of the Incarnation as given by Luke and Matthew. The devotional tone is in harmony with the spirit of Christmas. The book is a lovely one to give as a Christmas gift. He discusses the right and the wrong use of these Canticles and shows how resources for Mary should not lead to Mariolatry.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

III. HISTORY.

The Church in America. By Prof. Wm. Adams Brown. Macmillan Co., New York 1922. 378 pp. Price \$3.00.

Prof. Brown (of Union Theol. Seminary) does an exceptional piece of work in this volume. It is thought provoking throughout, much of it is not new;—those parts that attack the church, those that patronize abiding convictions in religion, and those that generally fail to stress the reality of individual sin and

the consequent need of an atoning Saviour—all such are to be found in the books that come from Dr. Brown's environment. But many things are new and come from the abiding conviction of the author that organized churches, while not living up to their possibilities, have in them the power and the only power that will meet the world's needs. Besides the Introduction and Conclusion, the book is divided into five parts. The Introduction gives the various estimates of the function of the church. Part I, "Facing the Facts", brings us to admit what we can scarcely deny, that we have failed miserably, often where failure was unnecessary. Part II, begins with where the war left us, takes us through the outer-church world-movement, reasons for its failure, etc. The remaining parts, give the author's ideal of how to organize for it and suggests the "training for tomorrow" which must be done. That the author completely misunderstands or misrepresents Southern Baptists, his references to close communion" on pp. 82-257 plainly show, also by his omission of the 75-Million Campaign from the list of "the more important movements," on page 120. Perhaps he does not know that this was the largest successful movement of any denomination. Some of the volume is the viewpoint of the Y. M. C. A. secretary, rather than that of the scholar, but one rejoices in his doing justice to the noble and unselfish work of the Y. M. C. A. during the war, despite Catholic propaganda to the contrary.

If the book could be read by Christian men only it would serve a wider purpose. While it gives too much comfort to the man outside the church—as do all books of this sort—it at the same time restates for the church its task in the light of present conditions in a worthy way. One will often disagree with the author, but one will always enjoy him. The style and type are excellent. The plan of the book is superb. While the publishers estimate of the author's fitness for the task—interdenominational experience—may be viewed as unfitness by many readers, yet the broad scholarship and wide experience of the author insure worthy reading. The views of the author are clouded by his obsession that Protestant Christianity must have some central agency through which it may express and impress itself. That

is to be accounted for, perhaps, as a provincialism—a thing against which the author writes. The author believes that we must rethink our doctrine of the church “that we must determine what should be the function of the church in our democratic society and come to a definite understanding how the existing churches can see that this function is adequately discharged.” Here the author is at his best. Here he is most humble in saying that no one can give other than a suggestive and provisional program. It is in this part of the book that the author is most helpful. No one can read the book and remain indifferent to his church. The unique and necessary position of the church is tellingly portrayed. This book should be read, especially by preachers. Dr. Brown has done an unpleasant task better than the majority of his predecessors in this field.

F. M. POWELL.

The Beginnings of Christianity. Part I. The Acts of the Apostles. Vol. II. Criticism. Edited by Prof. F. J. Foakes Jackson and Prof. Lake. Macmillan and Co., London and New York, 1922. Pages 539. Price 24s.

The editors have planned four volumes on this important book. The Acts of the Apostles which is Part I of the series on *The Beginnings of Christianity*. Vol. I has already appeared and discussed the Jewish, Gentile and Christian Backgrounds. Vol. II is the present volume and is devoted to criticism. Vol. III and IV will include *Text and Commentary*.

The editors write certain parts and procure writers for other parts who are more or less in sympathy with their views. The editors claim to be carrying out the plans of Lightfoot, but in reality while Lightfoot's work was a tremendous bulwark for the New Testament, this series is so far decidedly destructive of all that Lightfoot stood for. There is an occasional writer of a sober type. But it is a bit conscious that, just at the time when Ramsay and Harnack had convinced most of the scholarly world of the Lucan authorship and early date of both Gospel and Acts,