

The lectures are four. The first discusses the meaning of Mysticism (Greek, Jewish, Christian). The second treats the Revelation of the Nature of God with a careful balancing of the various aspects of the Incarnation in the New Testament writers. The third deals with the Symbolism of the Incarnation with reference to our Lord's Personality. The fourth makes the Practical Application of the Incarnation as seen in modern Pietism and other developments. One notes at once that the lectures deal fundamentally with mysticism and only incidentally with the Fourth Gospel as one expression of it. But this psychological and philosophical approach to the Fourth Gospel has its value and the author is loyal to Jesus as the Revelation of God and the Saviour from sin.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

The Acts. By B. H. Carroll, D.D., LL.D., Late President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Edited by J. B. Cranfill, LL.D. New York, 1916, Fleming H. Revell Company. viii-|-471 pp. \$2.00 net.

Dr. Cranfill as editor and patron is pushing forward Dr. Carroll's Interpretation of the English Bible with enthusiasm. It is a work with many notable marks of excellence and strength. The Editor's method of seeking to reproduce the author's exact language and the exact lists of class-room questions gives the work, no doubt, added value and charm to Dr. Carroll's students and to those who had heard him lecture and preach often enough for his style to be part of the power of his thought. But these things tend to colloquialize the work and in the long run will limit its usefulness. The Editor is quite capable of using the editorial function to the ultimate advantage of the work. Particularly could some faulty expressions, altogether permissible in the familiarity of the class-room, have been modified to the distinct advantage of the readers. One feels that the beautiful, reverent loyalty of the Editor to Dr. Carroll has misled him in such matters. Coming to this particular volume, its positions are, of course, vigorously orthodox and wherever there is occasion for controversy, as *e. g.* at Acts 2:38, or again on questions

as to Paul's experience, the offending views are smashed with the powerful blows of the masterful contender. Radical Higher Criticism gets many a well-deserved blow.

The interpretations are, for the most part, correct, always clear, and are so given as to help the teacher or preacher directly and extensively. It ought, perhaps, to be said that these commentaries are all prepared with the preacher and his use of them distinctly in mind. But this fact must not be taken to suggest that the lay reader will not find them highly profitable. They will always be within his comprehension and will stimulate and embolden his faith.

The different parts of the Acts are not expounded with corresponding completeness and at many points one longs for more.

Dr. Carroll caught with clear insight Luke's idea and plan in writing Acts and so he expounds him with sympathy.

One cannot at all points accept the commentator's positions. For example, in the fine interpretation of Pentecost it is unfortunate that no direct answer is found to Dr. Carroll's own question as to just what the "gift of the Holy Spirit" consists in and what was its purpose. The phrase "even to as many as the Lord our God shall call unto Him," (2:39), is taken by Dr. Carroll as limiting the promise among believers to selected ones, presumably few. This seems to be in direct conflict with Peter's idea. It is curious to find Dr. Carroll concluding that the one serious defect with the immersion of the twelve in Acts 19 was an improper administrator. An improper administrator they seem sure enough to have had, but that does not at all appear to be the point of Paul's objection. Here, as at some other places, the passages to be interpreted and the interpretations given are too much under the influence of local and temporary controversies. But when it comes to great general ideas of the Kingdom and of the Gospel the comments reflect true insight and mighty grip on the great things of God and of Christ Jesus.

W. O. CARVER.

The Acts of the Apostles. By William Owen Carver, Th.D., LL.D., Associate Professor of Interpretation of the New Testament and Pro-