

Why I Believe the Bible. By David James Burrell, Pastor of the Marble Collegiate Church, New York. 1917, Fleming H. Revell Co. 199 pp. \$1.00 net.

"This book is dedicated to Our Old-fashioned Mothers who, with all their knowing, 'just know their Bibles true' and live that way." I quote this dedication because of its beautiful sentiments and also because it is a sort of index to the attitude that is found throughout the discussion of the twenty-two chapters. This means that the severely scientific critic, who knows no test for truth save the cold criterion of intellectually weighed facts, and who fancies that the range of facts now discoverable in a field nearly two thousand years trampled by tradition puts him in position to contradict the testimony of the best men of the time, that such a man will curl his haughty lip in scorn and pass this book by. But there are other men who know how to use all the senses of their souls and do not shut themselves off from all knowledge save what comes through the narrow ranges of "scientific" history and sense experience. Such men will follow these chapters with growing insight and convictions and will come into fresh assurance of faith in God's Book in a day of doubts and into fresh appreciation of its power and beauty.

For "five and forty years" Dr. Burrell has tried out this Bible in a singularly rich and fruitful ministry, since that night when a dying sinner called on the young theological skeptic to tell him in frank truth whether he had for that poor sinner any sure word of God. Dr. Burrell has conducted this ministry amid the very winds of doubt that blew cold chills of unbelief into the hearts of many. But in the busy work of ministering to needy souls the wind blew no chills into his soul, but only gave more stimulus to the fires of faith fed by fine sentiment and holy endeavor.

So the man in maturity of age comes at length to give the beautiful and reassuring tribute to the Bible that was once the stay of the mother whose consecrating love dedicated him to the ministry of Jesus, and that has been his own unflinching instrument in lifting and guiding his fellow men in the way of peace and safety.

The publisher advertises that herein the Bible "is viewed from all angles". At all events it is here viewed from very many angles and from such as give the truest views of it. And any reader can understand it all.

W. O. CARVER.

A System of Natural Theism. By Leander S. Keyser, D.D., Professor of Theism, Ethics and Christian Evidence in Wittenberg College and of Systematic Theology in Wittenberg Seminary, Springfield, Ohio, Author of "A System of Christian Ethics", "The Rational Test", "Election and Conversion", etc. 144 pp.; indexed; material carefully classified; divisions and subdivisions clearly indicated by various fonts of type. \$1.00.

In these days of "modern" ideas and methods, when all the ideas and arguments of preceding generations are discarded or discounted, there is something refreshing in an author and a publisher ignoring the current conventions and giving us a book after the ancient order. It is like a voice from a century gone by to read these pages. The arguments for the existence of God, and the exposition and refutation of anti-theistic theories are modernized in verbal form but are along the same lines followed a half century ago. And it is illuminating to see how attractive and weighty these arguments are made to appear; for, indeed, these arguments have abiding force and are always worthy of serious consideration. One finds the development of the theses very clear and very logically outlined and notated, but given with such brevity that we really have here only a syllabus outline, very lucid and suggestive.

W. O. CARVER.

The Philosophy of Christian Being. By Walter E. Brandenburg, A.M. Boston, 1917, Sherman, French & Co. 148 pp. \$1.20 net.

The author has a right to claim that he has given us herein a novel volume. And it is one of vigorous thinking and stimulating of thought in the reader. Upon the foundation of personal idealism, specifically that of Josiah Royce, the author has attempted to ground the essential features of orthodox Christianity. Christianity is interpreted in the thought forms—howbeit not in the terminology—of that specific Christian type inaugurated by Alexander Campbell. The result is a remarkable combination of deep philosophy, quotation and interpretation of Scripture, subtle and shrewd adjustment of the principles of the philosophy with the interpretations of Scripture. The great essential facts of Christianity, such as the Incarnation, the Resurrection, the individual Christian experience, the Church, the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of Heaven, all these are rationalized, in the best sense of that term, with, and within, this "Philosophy of the Fourth Conception".

The author is very fertile in illustration and of analogy, with the result, so natural to men of this type of thinking in symbols, that he often mistakes analogy for equivalence and illustration for evidence, and that he mixes figures in prolific incongruity. No subtler argument for the Campbell theories about the function of the church and the ordinances, the relation of the church to the Kingdom and the use of "the gospel" in salvation was probably ever presented, and yet the subtleties were never more easily discernible for one acquainted with the methods of reasoning.

The book is replete with striking, sometimes startling, insights into the vital depths of our Christianity and is always interesting and helpful to the discerning reader.

W. O. CARVER.