

Vital Problems of Religion. By the Rev. J. R. Cohn, Rector of Aston Clinton, etc., etc., with an Introduction by The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of S. Asaph. Edinburgh, T. and T. Clark, 1914; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. xiv+289 pp. \$1.50.

From the standpoint of a *monistic personal idealism* the author has undertaken to set out in this volume the doctrines which a vital Christianity embraces in this period of "transition." Like so many others of the moment, he exaggerates the contrasts in faith and knowledge between the present and former generations. This is an easy error of those who have been dazzled by the glamour of modern thought and thrilled with the life of a progressive age.

The author has an originality of approach and style that if a little difficult at first soon become both clear and attractive. He deals with such problems as Evolution, Evil, "Religion and Science," Personality, Freedom of the Will, Conscience and "Religion and Theology." The final chapter brings to a climax the whole discussion in an effort to relate the doctrine of the Trinity to the God of Philosophy. He recognizes the limitations of philosophy in the sphere of religion: "Say what you will, philosophy has no religious creed worthy of the name. A creed strikes direct at the heart and will; philosophy leaves the heart cold and inspires no one to activity of character or life," which is true of some works on philosophy, but is an exaggeration as to philosophy. Nevertheless the author does undertake to "hint at the religious principles for which idealist philosophy stands" and the hints include the essentials of the ecumenical theology stated in terms of philosophy.

The weakness of the work is its defective sense of sin and inadequate treatment of "the Fall," where it follows the usual error of attributing to the Bible much of Milton's view of this significant experience. The excellencies are many.

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