

**Theologischer Jahresbericht. Zweilunddreissigster Band 1912. Das Neue Testament.** Bearbeitet von M. Brückner (Berlin), R. Knopf (Wien), H. Windisch (Leipzig). 1913. Pages 165-304. D. Schian, Giessen, Germany.

This invaluable bibliography of the publications in the field of the New Testament maintains its high standard. The material is clearly arranged and duly considered with helpful estimates. The student of the New Testament will find it very useful for further research.

#### V. CHURCH HISTORY.

**The Influence of the Bible on Civilization.** By Ernest von Dobschütz. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914. 190 pp. \$1.25 net.

This little book is a delightful study of a very important theme. The Bible is the source-book of Christianity. What has been its actual influence on civilization? The question is difficult to answer and it is good to have so able and sympathetic a scholar as Dr. Dobschütz undertake the task. He finds that European civilization has been deeply influenced by the Book. He shows how it made itself indispensable in the Church, and then after Constantine began to rule the Empire, in public life and law. It was the chief teacher of the German people in the early years of their civilized life, and certainly one of the main factors in mediæval civilization. It was the inspiration of all the principal reforming movements which culminated in the Reformation of the 16th century; and it furnished material for the earlier printers and book-dealers. All this the author proves by copious references to the social and religious history of the centuries involved.

With reference to the present time the author concludes that, while the Bible is undoubtedly more widely circulated than ever before, it is not exercising the influence on life that it once exerted. Art is secularized, law shows little trace of its influence; social, political and economic life ignores it. But the author believes its influence is no less important now than formerly,

only it will henceforth be as a book of devotion that it wields its power. As long as there is piety the Bible will be read and as long as the Bible is read there will be piety.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

**Theological Symbolics.** By Charles Augustus Briggs, D.D., D.Litt  
New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1914. 429 pp.

This, the last published work of Dr. Briggs, appeared after his death. According to the preface the author had spent many years in its preparation, and had the material almost in readiness for the printer. The final touches were given by the author's daughter, but the work is Dr. Briggs'. The volume is in the series of the "International Theological Library" and partakes of the general characteristics and excellencies of that series.

It is packed with vast and accurate learning concerning the symbolic history of Christianity—the origin of the various confessions, the editions of the same and the vast literature of discussion—polemical, irenic and explanatory—that has gathered about these confessions. But it is not merely the origin of the confessions that is traced, but also the origin of the doctrines that find expression in these confessions. The volume is in fact an important contribution to the history of doctrines.

The exposition of the creeds is in the main replete with learning, and is fair and accurate. Dr. Briggs studied these ancient symbols with a sympathetic interest which, in view of his reputation for radical thought, is rather surprising. He is especially sympathetic and able in dealing with the Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Presbyterian confessions. Concerning other bodies of different genius he is not so accurate and happy. For example he makes many mistakes as to the Baptists and their symbolic statements. This is the more surprising, because the information was at his elbow to serve as the basis for correct statements. On page 14 it is said that Congregational and Baptist Churches have their own local confessions which