

III. RELIGION AND MISSIONS.

Religions and Religion: A Study of the Science of Religion, Pure and Applied. By James Hope Moulton,, D.D., D. Theol., Late Fellow of King's College, Professor in Manchester University, and Tutor at Didsbury College. New York, 1913. Methodist Book Concern. xx+212 pages. \$1.25 net.

Nothing finer in the use of the materials of comparative religion for a scientific defense of Christianity and for the reassurance of Christians in the face of critical doubt has appeared. Nor, taking it all in all, does one expect anything finer. This does not commit the reviewer to all the views of the author. I particularly dissent from his acceptance of the view that immortality of the individual was not developed until the time of the post exilic scribes, "that until the Old Testament canon was all but complete, the very idea of a future life in any shape was unknown." So keen a student amazes when he speaks thus.

With the author's fearlessness in full view of all the light from "the mystery religions" and from the historical study of religions and of religion I am in full sympathy. He writes in a fine style that breathes a buoyant optimism all the way. He is a master of concise utterances pregnant with suggestions of collateral implications and influences; so that one gathers up a great bulk of ideas and information not explicitly contained in the author's text, and weaves it into the argument as it proceeds.

The book is one for a reader tolerably well informed concerning recent claims, discoveries and theories in the fields of Biblical criticism, history of religion and the comparative study of religion.

The author's fine ridicule of the excesses of critical unbelief attains to the best degree of humor.

It is the Fenley Lecture, celebrating the centenary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is worthy of both the Lecture-ship and the Centenary.

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