

not a history of religion, but of religions, and the work adheres strictly to the ideal of the plan. What we have, therefore, is a series of objective histories of the religious manifestations in the religions of the various countries named in the title. The unity of the parts is, therefore, of three kinds. First, there is the merely artificial unity of collection in a single volume. Next, there is the inevitable unity of a basal religiousness of which religions are differentiations under varying environments and influences. Chiefly there is the unity of a common view-point and method in dealing with all the religions. The perspective and proportion are good.

The general ethnic facts for each people are given briefly and the earliest historical religious beliefs and practices are outlined. Then we find outlines of the separate religions as separate, with attention to their interaction and relation. This plan is well adapted to each of the fields treated in the volume.

For the most part only praise can be felt for the objective fairness and clearness of the accounts of the various religions. One might think that the influence of the religions on the ethics and general social conditions of the people could have been treated a little more adequately and with possibly a little less charity. In such matters charity ought not to cover too many sins. Some of the latest sects are overlooked occasionally, as in Japan; and again treated so summarily as not to give accurate information, as in case of the Somajes of India.. But one cannot demand everything in a book of such limitations. It is cause for gratitude that students of religions are to have these two volumes by Professor Moore.

W. O. CARVER.

**The Three Religions of China.** Lectures delivered at Oxford. By the Rev. W. E. Soothill, M.A., F. R. G. S. (Late Principal of the Shansi Imperial University, President designate of the United Universities' proposed Central-China University). Hodder & Stoughton, London; George H. Doran Company, New York, 1913. xii+324 pages. \$1.50 net.

Mr. Soothill has spent many years in fruitful study and service in China. He is a translator and compiler in both Chinese

and English. He is regarded as a first-class authority. One evidence of his fitness is his modesty of statement in so wide and uncertain a field as Chinese religions. His lectures were designed for prospective missionaries to China and have retained the familiar tone which was natural under such conditions.

They make use of the increasing knowledge of religion in China and of the later viewpoints in studying this religion; but they do not make this use with entire consistency. It is perhaps natural to find a good deal of generalization in dealing with a subject so vast and varied, but sometimes the general character of the statements seems due to lack of pains to acquire accuracy. In the main the work discusses the religion of the Chinese rather than "the Three Religions of China," and it had been well if the author had thus frankly taken the right view-point and not have allowed himself to speak in terms of the old way of thinking of three religions. These three religions are there and needed to be treated in these lectures but in the back-ground, not the fore-ground.

There is, moreover, some confusion, especially among tenets and practices of Taoists and Buddhists. One can the more freely point out some such defects in this work because, after all is said, it remains that this is a very superior work for getting acquainted with the history and present condition of religion in China. I think that among single volumes on the subject none other is quite so good.

W. O. CARVER.

**An Outline History of China. Part II. From the Manchu Conquest to the Recognition of the Republic, A. D. 1913.** By Herbert H. Gowen, D.D., F.R.G.S., Lecturer on Oriental History at the University of Washington. Boston, 1913, Sherman, French & Company. 216 pp. \$1.25 net.

The first volume of this work was given an appreciative notice in our July, 1913, number. This completes the work. It is a chronicle rather than a history, and seems to seek a balance at places where one would prefer decision. One cannot fail to note occasional typographical errors. But it remains a very readable and useful outline of Chinese history, the best for ordinary purposes. It is not a source history, but a good, popular outline of the chief facts and factors.

W. O. CARVER.