

The Return of the Redeemer. By George P. Eckman. The Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati, 1920. 275 pp. 50 cents net.

There are many books with all sorts of theories about the second coming of Christ. I know of no saner and wiser and more Scriptural treatment than this volume. The author writes clearly, simply and reverently. He holds heartily to the blessed hope of Christ's second coming and frees it from all millennial theories. It is a fine and useful piece of work.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

The Life and Times of Jesus. By Frederick C. Grant. The Abingdon Press, New York, 1921. 223 pp. \$1.25 net.

Under the general classification of the Abingdon Religious Education Texts this volume is designed with reference to the Week-Day School Series. It is neither technical nor comprehensive. The style is very good. The arrangement of the material is largely chronological, though the author feels free to introduce here and there a topical discussion, as in the chapter on "Opposition of Scribes and Pharisees," etc. There is a constant play of historical sidelights which lends vividness and charm. Additional assistance is found in excellent illustrations, maps and suggestive questions. The Biblical text used has been paraphrased in modern English.

In a volume characterized by so many excellent features one notes with regret the absence of any emphatic teaching on the part of the author as to the Virgin Birth of Jesus. The interpretation of the phrase "The Son of Man" on pages 51-2 is a little ambiguous; a clearer and more correct view is that found later (pages 160-1). As a self-designation it was certainly not employed by Jesus to express the same content as that in the popular expectation. As a veiled messianic title it had a strange sound to those who asked, "What kind of a Son of Man is this?" Again, Jesus is pictured as utterly amazed at his baptism when His Father's voice was heard. But why? He *knew before* that he was the Messiah. One also wonders why the author should

have injected a churchman's views into a volume intended for general use—such, for example, as his references to “infant baptism (page 20) and the sacraments (page 220) by which His disciples live in communion with Him.” Likewise we would hardly expect the author to employ the neuter pronoun in his paraphrase (page 138) with regard to the Holy Spirit. Finally, a few inaccuracies might have been obviated, for instance, the “home of Martha and Mary” (page 89), see John 11:18.

The book is a handy and happy volume, but is to be used with discrimination. The only way to tell the story of Jesus is to tell it as it is told. We have the source-book—we must stay with the Book.

J. MCKEE ADAMS.

III. HISTORY.

The Pulpit and American Life. By A. S. Hoyt. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1921. 286 pp. \$2.50.

This rather fresh treatment of an old theme will be welcomed by all who have read Prof. Hoyt's previous books. Dr. Hoyt has been a teacher of preachers for years and has been a wide student of such literature. The aim of this book seems to be twofold. First, to give a glimpse of the contribution made by the pulpit to American life, and second, to hearten and encourage the present day preacher for his gigantic and necessary task. Critics of the pulpit have always been legion and they have varied as much in their ability to criticise as they have in their own life reaction to the gospel message. Dr. Hoyt, on the whole, is sympathetic in his criticism, although his field of investigation is almost entirely limited to New England. It goes without saying to one who knows that the New England pulpit never has represented and never will adequately represent the American pulpit. To begin with the Puritans and proceed through the Unitarians to present day times is to neglect largely the great forma-