

Review.

PAUL OF TARSUS: by T. R. Glover. 243 pages, Student Christian Movement, 9s. net.

WHAT a service Dr. Glover is doing for thinking men, to make religion real and interesting, to show that the experiences of the first and of the twentieth century are fundamentally akin! Two books on the progress of religion, two on our Lord, and now one on His greatest follower. This volume would be the despair of an examinee, for it has no table of what eminent chronologers have thought as to dates, no map showing where Paul's ships coasted along. It is much more interesting to see that he was a bad sailor and preferred to walk overland, to trace his spiritual growth without having it measured off into years. Such are the things Dr. Glover does for us. He gives us a very human Paul, without the Conybeare-Ramsay background of the towns he visited. "Our present affair is not biography, nor a record of travel, but portraiture; and in every chapter the first thing must be the portrait." Why did he not get someone to work with his pencil on the contemporary description he records, and prefix a literal portrait of Paul? Only that would have been the flesh, and Paul preferred the spirit. So we have here a tracing of the mental and religious development, with its abrupt wrench at Damascus.

Critical difficulties are not evaded, but are dealt with very interestingly. Modern movements are made to illustrate Paul's experiences; Annie Besant, the obscene temple of Madura, spiritualists, Second Adventists, illuminate his life, and receive his verdict.

It is very hard to lay the book down till it is finished, with the proviso that once it has been enjoyed, it shall then be studied chapter by chapter. For who can absorb, or at once agree with, so much that is startling both in light from unexpected quarters, and in expression?

The paternal pride at the start is well balanced with the filial reverence towards the close. Epigrams abound, as might be expected from a public orator; "Apuleius lived a century after Paul, so perhaps Paul did not borrow from him," may keep us on the highway of Paul's originality; "cash and credulity" form an atmosphere for many modern movements.

Whoso studies this book will learn the value of grouping statements made in different connections, and getting an insight into the mind of an author. It is delightful to learn that while the lines of the book were laid in Simla, it is associated for Dr. Glover chiefly with America, "that home of lost causes, forsaken beliefs, and impossible loyalties."