

Reviews.

The Edict of Nantes and Afterwards, by Henry J. Cowell.
(Lutterworth Press, 3d. net.)

That chapter of Protestant history which is bound up with the fortunes of the Huguenots is of vital importance to all lovers of religious liberty, and Mr. Cowell is to be congratulated on the publication of this brief survey. His aim is to show the debt we owe to French Protestants; to justify Dr. Fairbairn's remark that the Huguenot made his faith illustrious. It is a thrilling story he has to tell. In rapid survey he takes us through the persecution of Protestants culminating in the massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, the official reversal of policy in the signing of the Edict of Nantes in 1598, and the wave of renewed persecution ushered in by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This, Mr. Cowell considers, was "one of the greatest blunders and crimes of European history." From 250,000 to 300,000 French Protestants left their native country for conscience' sake. Those of the exiles who came to England enriched our trade: but more, they "took with them not only their arts and trades, but their love of liberty, their faith, their language, their literature." Mr. Cowell's fascinating study, brief though it is, helps us to appreciate Dr. Baird's judgment that "correctly viewed, the history of the Huguenots is in no sense the history of a lost cause. It is the record of the miserable failure of persecution to destroy freedom of thought." It is particularly gratifying to record Mr. Cowell's investigations into this all-important department of religious history. He is to be congratulated on an essay which ought to find its way into the hands of all lovers of liberty. It has special relevance to the modern situation in view of the challenges to personal liberty that are once again vaunting themselves in Europe to-day.

F. T. L.

Christ and Money, by Hugh Martin, M.A. (Student Movement Press, 1s.)

We welcome the inclusion of Mr. Martin's excellent little book in the attractive "Religion and Life" series. Since its publication in 1926 it has received commendation in many quarters. Mr. Martin feels that far too little is taught in the

churches about the everyday issues of life, and he has certainly succeeded in stating the case for Christian stewardship in a challenging way. Now at the modest price of 1s., this book ought to find its way into ministers' studies and circles for group discussion. We know no better introduction to this difficult but pressing problem.

The Prophets of the Bible, by Henry Cook, M.A. (Student Christian Movement Press, 5s. net.)

In the preface to this book, Mr. Cook tells us that he has found the prophets a constant source of pleasure and inspiration, and that, first in Leeds and then at Ferme Park, he has given courses of Sunday evening lectures upon them. It was the response evoked by the Ferme Park lectures that led to the writing of this volume. The Ferme Park Church has a membership of 1,200, and, with preaching of the quality and insight revealed by this work, we do not wonder at its continued life and virility.

But this is not a volume of sermons. It is an adequate introduction to the prophets such as the busy minister and lay preacher will find most useful. The author's knowledge of Biblical scholarship, both historical and literary, is obvious in every chapter, and yet, throughout, the style is popular and non-technical. Taking the prophets one by one, he discusses their historical background, personal characteristics, literary form and religious message, so that they live before us and speak their timeless message. The reading of the 215 pages of this book has made the Bible live, and we heartily commend it to ministers and laymen alike.

S. J. P.