

Reviews.

St. Paul, The Man and the Teacher, by C. A. Anderson Scott, D.D. (Cambridge University Press, 5s. net.)

Dr. Anderson Scott's claim to be a reliable and inspiring interpreter of Paul has already been demonstrated in his previous publications, but this latest study from his pen will do much to bring the main factors in Paul's life and teaching before the layman as well as the New Testament scholar. The arrangement of his book is attractive. He begins by an outline study of Paul's life, goes on to a most useful summary of Paul's teaching, and devotes the third section of the book to a convenient grouping of the relevant passages from the Acts and the epistles. He gives full attention to the factors which produced the rich and varied ministry of the apostle. His section on the character of Paul, though brief, will repay careful reading. He draws attention to the extraordinary change effected in Paul by his conversion. The characteristics of Paul the Pharisee were completely reversed. The earlier period, when Paul may be described as "self-satisfied, ambitious, inconsiderate of others, intolerant, and ruthless even to cruelty," is contrasted with the apostle's later life. "Self-satisfaction has given place to continuous humility before God, dependence on self to dependence on God. The proud claim of the Pharisee is abandoned. The attitude of the Publican is adopted. Ambition for self gives place to ambition for Christ and His Church."

Dr. Anderson Scott is not blind to defects in Paul's character, but whatever failings he may have had he was "certainly marked by many fine and noble qualities." It is interesting to note that Dr. Anderson Scott inclines to the view that the Epistles of the Captivity were composed not in Rome, but during some Asiatic imprisonment, perhaps in Ephesus. This originality of view is demonstrated also in his treatment of Pauline teaching. The section, "What Christ has done," will be found challenging by many who adopt the traditional views of the sacrificial work of Christ. It is gratifying to notice that Dr. Anderson Scott has no room for any ultimate dualism in Pauline anthropology. "Following the Hebrew tradition, Paul conceives of man as made up of body and soul, not, as in Greek thought, soul enclosed or imprisoned in body." This book, both in arrangement and range of treatment, will form an admirable handbook for all who desire to pursue their studies of Paul under wise and well-informed leadership.

F. TOWNLEY LORD.

Carey, by S. Pearce Carey, M.A. (Marshall, Morgan Scott Ltd., 1s. net.)

Mr. Pearce Carey has written an admirable account of his distinguished ancestor in this concise biography. He has steered clear of the danger of repeating in précis form his larger "Life." This is a new portrait, in which Carey lives again, made vivid by many a vigorous phrase. It is etched with the skill of one who seems almost to have lived with Carey, as he has studied exhaustively all the available material, and made pilgrimage to places identified with different phases of Carey's life.

The book conveys more forcefully than ever the impression of Carey's greatness. It is the story of an ordinary man who became extraordinary, and indeed achieved the impossible through his commitment to the purpose of God for him. "The despised shoe-maker became India's first European Professor of Sanskrit." And much more. For Carey amazes us to the point of stupefaction by the number of things he did supremely well.

The adventurous spirit of youth could have no better introduction to a great man than by way of this stimulating book, and those who are already familiar with biographies of Carey have something to learn from it.

W. TAYLOR BOWIE.

Concerning the Ministry, by John Oman, D.D. (Student Christian Movement Press, 7s. 6d. net.)

Of the making of books concerning the ministry there is no end; it is a pity that some had a beginning. They follow well worn tracks on such subjects as preparation, texts, style, power, and the like, *ad lib.*, and can be of little inspiration to their readers. But here is a book of different calibre; and any member of our Society who wishes to give a volume to his minister, or, better still, to all the ministers in his County Association, will find it admirable for the purpose. And if the minister is willing to profit from Dr. Oman's rich store of wisdom and counsel, he will be more equal to the heavy claims of pulpit and pastorate. The learned author modestly suggests that the twenty-two chapters were "quiet talks, with freedom to wander into by-paths, and were the last effort of the week, when teacher and taught had had more than enough of serious lecturing," but they reveal the same powers of insight and creative thinking as his more formal books.

Dr. Oman presents an exalted conception of the ministry, and has some good words to say of the Churches, as when he quotes an outsider who said of Dr. Oman's old Church, "They have their faults, but, after all, the word of every man among

them is as good as his bond; and the women are better than the men." In reading the book I found myself marking many passages: "You should be like your most efficient lay brethren in learning well your own particular job and being a master in it." "There is a new catchword which calls you to be life-changers. But you had better begin by being life-understanders." "It is not theories of the Atonement that matter, but knowing that the more we are sensitive to sin, the more in Christ we find peace." "Width of reading is of little use without breadth of mind." "Once you esteem yourselves phenomenally busy men there is the possibility some day of taking the fluttering of the washing on the clothes-line of self-importance for eagle's wings soaring in the empyrean." "Of the love of God I am not sure that you should ever preach generally." I have said nothing of Dr. Oman's many literary allusions and pleasant stories, but perhaps these quotations illustrate best the fine quality of the volume.

A First Church History, by Vera E. Walker (Student Christian Movement Press, 6s. net.)

The preface describes this as a first simple history of the Christian Church in all the centuries and in all countries, intended for all persons over twelve years of age. It is admirably suited for the purpose, competent, concise and vital. The authoress is studiously fairminded in her judgments, but doubtless she found that the allocation of space presented problems not easily solved. An illustrated time chart adds to the value of the book, which should find a place in all school libraries. The work is also published in two volumes, parts I. and II., at 2s. 6d. each.

Vital Preaching, by Sidney M. Berry, M.A., D.D. (Independent Press, 3s. 6d. net.)

Here we have the Warrack Lectures on Preaching for 1936, delivered to the theological students at Aberdeen and Glasgow. Dr. Berry's five themes are the preacher, the sermon, the study, the congregation and the sanctuary, and within this limited compass he has produced a volume full of practical wisdom and knowledge. He recognises that the times are out of joint for the preacher, but is confident that "there is a greater place for the preacher to fill in the world of to-day and to-morrow than most contemporary judgments would allow." The students who heard these lectures could not fail to receive a loftier vision of their vocation; the preacher toiling in the midst of the years who reads them will find uplift and refreshment.