

Reviews.

The Theory of Religious Liberty in England, 1603-39, by T. Lyon, B.A. (Cambridge University Press, 7s. 6d. net.)

The idea of religious liberty in England was first fully formulated in the early years of the seventeenth century, and, in view of the world outlook to-day, it is useful to have this competent study of the first reasonings. Toleration, as the author reminds us, is not a state or a theory which, once achieved, endures for ever, like some principle of human knowledge. It is a principle which each generation has to strive for afresh; and it is quite possible that Englishmen may yet be faced with the problem of preserving their hard-won civil and religious liberties.

In the course of a long chapter on "The Birth of the Separatist idea of Religious Liberty," the author devotes thirty-five pages to the Arminian Baptists, and readers will find that these pages repay careful reading. The part played by Helwys, Busher, and others, in the fight for toleration is fully acknowledged, and their writings and pleas are subjected to critical examination.

The book was awarded the Thirlwall Prize Essay in 1937, and it will prove of value to all students of history and liberty.

The Gates of New Life, by James S. Stewart, B.D. (T. and T. Clark, 7s. net.)

This volume of sermons by the minister of North Morning-side Church, Edinburgh, is a welcome addition to "The Scholar as Preacher" series. The preacher reveals an intimate knowledge of life to-day, with all its varied needs, and in the central verities of the Christian faith he finds supplies which never fail to satisfy the needs. His acquaintance with the best literature, Victorian as well as modern, and with continental thought, is obvious, and he knows how to use his illustrations to advantage. It has been good to read these twenty-five discourses, both for their thought and their inspiration.

Road Baptist Church, 1688-1938, by Ernest A. Payne, B.A., B.D., B.Litt. (Obtainable from the Carey Press, 1s. net.)

Mr. Payne has made Northamptonshire his own, and in his researches is gradually covering the County. We are his debtors for this story of 250 years. He found the records somewhat fuller than is usually the case with village churches, and, as a result, has made the past live again and given a vivid picture of the church and its worthies against the background of history. The booklet is being presented to the honorary members of our Society.