

## Reviews.

*Tudor Puritanism*, by M. M. Knappen (United States of America : University of Chicago. Great Britain and Ireland : Cambridge University Press. 20s. net.)

The sub-title of this work, "A chapter in the History of Idealism," indicates its character, and it covers the period from 1544, when William Tyndale left London for Germany to prepare a translation of the Bible in the vernacular, to the Stuart settlement of the seventeenth century. The period witnessed considerable development in the Englishman's outlook and habit of life. The Renaissance and the Reformation linked him with great movements in other countries, while Puritanism played its part in linking the mediæval with the modern. The earlier Tudor Puritan of this study, who accepted the duty of passive obedience, was different from the later Stuart Puritan, who was willing to take the sword against his rulers.

This well-documented scholarly volume, with its select Bibliography and well-arranged Index, is likely to remain the standard work on the subject.

*George W. Truett, a Biography*, by Powhatan W. James. (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 12s. net.)

Here is a book to establish faith and to encourage adventurous living. Dr. Truett is the Spurgeon of to-day, and the careers of the two men are strangely similar. There is the same passionate devotion to Jesus Christ, the same overwhelming desire to win disciples, the same outlook on social service, which, in the one case, found expression in an Orphanage and Almshouses, and, in the other, the erection of the Baylor Hospital at a cost of about £600,000.

Illustrations abound. We read of the sensation at the Georgia Baptist Convention when George Truett made his first speech and "men wept under the mastery of that mountain lad's epic story"; of the guidance which led him to take what appeared to be the foolish step of moving to Texas; and of his ambition to become a lawyer frustrated by the determination of a whole church that he should be a preacher.

We have rarely read anything more moving than the story of Dr. Truett's ministry to the cowboys and cattlemen and the conversion of Big Jim and others; or the tragedy which nearly crushed his sensitive soul and the three-fold vision of his Master which remade him—now told for the first time. And there is much else, but get the book and read for yourself.

The author, who married Dr. Truett's eldest daughter, has done his work well, but the subject is greater than the biography. Perhaps the author was too near his father-in-law. A bigger canvas could have been secured by the omission of some of the many eulogies which are unnecessary, and by a fuller recital of the actual work at Dallas and elsewhere, setting it against the background of Texas as it was when Dr. Truett went there and as it is after his ministry of over forty years.

*The Reformed Pastor*, by Richard Baxter, 1656. Edited with an Introduction by John T. Wilkinson, M.A., B.D., F.R.Hist.S. (Epworth Press, 7s. 6d. net.)

A reprint of this classic on the Christian Ministry was long overdue, the last reprint being nearly eighty years ago. It has been produced in a style that will satisfy the most fastidious. The print is easy to read, the paper and binding a delight to handle.

Praise of Baxter's work is superfluous. Written in the seventeenth century, its message is fresh in the twentieth, for, as the late Dr. T. H. Martin said in the April issue of the *Baptist Quarterly*, "in the prosecution and enforcement of the essential motives of the minister's work it cannot be surpassed."

This volume is an abridgment, the many lengthy Latin quotations, and digressions upon passing controversies, having been omitted, while some sections have been transposed to afford better unity and development of thought. The introductory essay is altogether admirable, and the volume is further enriched by many useful footnotes.

A deacon who gives a copy to his minister for Christmas will be a wise and discerning man.

*Great Women of the Bible*, by F. Townley Lord, B.A., D.D. (Cassell & Co., Ltd., 3s. 6d. net.)

In this portrait gallery eight pictures are from the Old Testament, beginning with Eve, the Mother of Mankind, and eight from the New, concluding with the Women in the Background. The style is popular, for Dr. Lord knows how to convey solid teaching and exposition in picturesque language. The characters are portrayed with sympathy and insight, and although customs and manners may change it is clear that human nature, or perhaps in reviewing this book we should say woman's nature, has changed very little through the ages. The counterparts of these women can be met to-day in the homes and shops and churches of this modern world. The book will be specially helpful to leaders of Bible Classes and Women's Meetings, but its value is not restricted to them.