

Reviews.

Jesus, by S. Pearce Carey, M.A. (Hodder and Stoughton, 7s. 6d. net.)

To undertake a book on Jesus requires some courage. The ground has been so thoroughly examined in the past that there is little chance of any new discovery, and there is always the danger that prejudice—I mean pre-judgment because of the subject—will prevent the book having a fair chance. But Pearce Carey has proved his capacity by his *Life of William Carey*, and his student habits have continued with him through a long and varied ministry. There are constant references to the original text, and the Gospels are studied with freshness and insight. Constantly there are phrases that arrest the reader; for example, that the Golden Rule is "a perfect pocket spirit-level." The whole book is indeed both interesting and helpful, and it can be cordially commended. Not that everything in it will carry conviction; for example, the somewhat startling and unfortunate suggestion that the Agony in the Garden may have some connection with *Angina*. In the same way the treatment of the Transfiguration and the Cry of Dereliction on the Cross will seem to many unsatisfactory. But the book as a whole is both sane and suggestive. Perhaps the biggest lack is a discussion of the composition and inter-connection of the Gospels. But probably the scheme of the book did not allow for this. As it is we can congratulate Mr. Carey—and our ministry—upon it, and hope that the sales will benefit the two causes he has at heart, the B.M.S. and Regent's.

HENRY COOK.

Crusade! A Plea for Christ and His poor, by G. Oswald Cornish (Independent Press Ltd., 1s.)

This book is described in a foreword by William Dick of Poplar as the manual of the Crusade to which he himself has called the Churches to deal with the problem of unemployment in the light of the Christian gospel. It starts from the contention that unemployment is not a necessary evil but is due to human failure and can be remedied. The author goes on to show that a body of Christian people thinking and acquiring knowledge about this subject, following up their concern and keeping the Church and the nation awake on this urgent issue, has a great work to perform. He outlines a practical strategy for dealing

with the situation, but wisely suggests that it is tentative and may need to be altered. The plan of the Crusade which he expounds is in outline (1) To provide work for those at present unemployed, "a short term policy." (2) To scrutinise very carefully the basis of the present industrial system in order to isolate and remove from it the factors that have created unemployment, "a long term policy." (3) To bring the Crusade into the field of international justice and goodwill, building world peace by the removal of the economic causes of war.

This book raises big issues and leaves big questions. Ought the Church to commit itself to the programme for the immediate reduction in the number of unemployed which is here outlined? Can we plan an economic and legislative programme in advance of a sufficient nucleus of that changed human personality that the author believes is necessary to sustain this Crusade? Whatever the answer to these questions, this book does a service in quickening the Christian conscience on a matter that all too easily fades into the background.

The Christian as Soldier. War-time discussion, by Hugh Martin, M.A. (Student Christian Movement Press, 4d.)

Mr. Martin writes as a one-time pacifist who has changed his mind. Avowing as passionate a hatred of war as any pacifist, he contends that "it is our Christian duty to-day to take up arms." Non-pacifists will find their case stated with that lucidity and force which make it such a pleasure to read anything Mr. Martin writes. Pacifists will naturally want to question and rebut the argument page by page. They may even claim that the author concedes more than he thinks when he says, "We must beware lest in order to win a military victory we lose the cause for which we say we are fighting." This is certainly a lively and stimulating pamphlet. It left one reader musing on whether it is not the case that the Christian Church of our day has been whispering the distinctively Christian word about peace while it loudly proclaims the stalemate it has reached in its conflicting reactions to the use of force.

W. TAYLOR BOWIE.