

Reviews.

Lootfy Levonian: *Studies in the Relationship between Islam and Christianity: Psychological and Historical.* 158pp. (George Allen and Unwin, 6s. net.)

Though not as long and impressive as its title, this is an interesting addition to the literature of the relationship of Islam and Christianity, written with knowledge and sympathy. It is by the Dean of the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, and the material has been given as lectures there and at Selly Oak. The author's claim that these pages "indicate a new direction and a new attitude" is somewhat exaggerated, in view of the recent apologetic work of Wilson Cash, Bevan Jones and C. R. Watson (to name no others), and the chapters vary greatly in style and standard. The book is valuable, however, for its insistence on an understanding of Moslem psychology (and, in particular, the non-spiritual conception of spirit), and for its plea that the way of hope is not in political, cultural or even theological victory, for one side or the other, but in the transformation both of Christians and Moslems by the Spirit of Jesus. It is noteworthy that one who has lived among them still has confidence in the remnants of the historic Churches of the Near East, and believes that they possess "spiritual resources more than sufficient to enable them to give a wholly new turn to affairs." There is a printer's error on p. 19; Biblical references on pp. 21 and 23 need correcting; and the initials of Theodore H. Robinson (p. 21) and Sir Thomas W. Arnold (p. 121) are wrongly given.

ERNEST A. PAYNE.

The Idea of the Soul in Western Philosophy and Science, by William Ellis, Ph.D. (George Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Ellis here devotes himself to the history of the idea of the soul. He writes with a non-specialist audience in mind: as he says, "for the ordinary educated man": but an education a little more than ordinary will be needed before his argument can be fully appreciated. His style is vigorous and always stimulating; and he has a way of his own in dealing with traditional views. His argument cannot be followed casually: again and again his important summaries compel hard thinking: as, for instance, his statement, "if spiritual activity occasions a real heterogeneity in the world, but not a Cartesian scission, then

it enters into the world hierarchically." But any one who will give care to these pages will find himself stimulated, if not always to agreement.

His book contains a considerable historical treatment. He traces the story of the idea of the soul from primitive conceptions, through the influence of Greek metaphysic and the mediaeval revival of Platonism to the important contribution of Descartes. This treatment is very refreshing. But as the author is a Lecturer in Zoology we naturally turn with expectation to what he has to say about the biological approach to the problem. Here he is at once appreciative and critical of the behaviourist solution of the problem. He feels the dilemma presented, on the one hand, by the mechanistic explanation of human behaviour which seems to leave no room for the psychical life, and, on the other, by our intuitive conviction that thoughts, perceptions, emotions, volitions, are real. "We find it simply impossible to believe that our perceptions and our mental life do not really enter into and determine our physical actions." But he looks forward hopefully to a solution of the dilemma, and suggests the solution is to be found in the reality of "mind" or "spirit" in the broad realm of life. "Now if it be true that 'mind' is really ingredient in our actions, and also true that the 'material' or perceptively known aspect of these actions falls entirely within the realm of physico-chemical description, the conclusion seems inevitable that 'mind' or 'spirit' is in some sense present to the whole of the physico-chemical realm, not merely to that part of it which happens to form our bodies."

The Church and the World. Vol. 2. *The Foundations of the Modern World*, by Cyril E. Hudson, M.A. (George Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)

It is increasingly recognised that the problems of Sociology have an urgent claim on Christian study. Especially in view of the present international situation it is necessary to trace the factors which have given rise to contemporary problems. This volume covers the period from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries, and is really a condensed source-book for those who wish to acquaint themselves with the main sociological theories and their exponents. Canon Hudson deals with the Conciliar Movement, the problem of Authority in Church and State, the Political Philosophy of Secularism, the Disintegration of the Mediaeval Economic Synthesis. Both for the information it supplies, and the light it throws upon the modern scene, this book is to be highly recommended.

F. TOWNLEY LORD.

Under Four Tudors—being the story of Matthew Parker, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, by Edith Weir Perry. (George Allen & Unwin. 12s. 6d. net.)

Matthew Parker was a man of courage. He never sought the limelight, his tastes were scholarly, and he was never happier than when Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Yet, when Elizabeth, early in her reign, demanded that he should become Archbishop of Canterbury, he left the quiet life he desired, to fulfil that difficult task conscientiously and courageously. History has often judged him harshly, for he pleased neither Catholic nor ardent Protestant. But his convictions led him to a middle path which he resolutely pursued, thereby doing as much as any man to mould the future of the Church of England.

This biography, to which the Archbishop of Canterbury writes an Introduction, is described as a labour of love. Mrs. Perry has obviously become immersed in her subject, and presents him with the background of home and friends. Therein lies the charm and value of the book, for no man lends himself better to such treatment than Archbishop Parker. Scholar and ecclesiastic, contemporary at Cambridge of Bilney, Robert Ascham, Ridley, Latimer and William Cecil, his friendships were wide and varied. And as we follow him through the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth—eventful and adventurous years—we savour the spirit of the times.

KENNETH S. PRICE.

Women in War-time, by Doris Feeney. (Independent Press, Ltd., 6d. net.)

Twenty-two heart-to-heart talks by the Secretary of the Federation of Congregational Women. They are practical and deeply spiritual, and will be suggestive to all who have part in women's work.

Ex Libris, Confessions of a Constant Reader, by E. E. Kellett. (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

A book to read and read again, for the author walks and has walked amid the realms of gold with sure tread. He and his gifted brother, Frederick William Kellett, whose early death deprived the Methodist Church of a great missionary, were born into a home containing a library, and from earliest years books have been part of the author's make-up. This volume is a literary autobiography covering about sixty years, and the reminiscences of books, ancient and modern, are altogether delightful.

Sophia Sturge, A Memoir, by William R. Hughes. (George Allen & Unwin. 5s. net.)

Sophia Sturge was a strong, dominating personality (we almost said domineering) who lived a rich, full life. The eldest daughter of Joseph Sturge, the Quaker reformer of Birmingham, she met John Bright and other notable Quaker leaders. Becoming dissatisfied with a purely Quaker environment, she joined the Church of England, but returned to the Quakers. She was tireless in her activities for others; and distressed Irish peasants, the cause of international peace, the sufferings of conscientious objectors, made heavy demands on her deep human sympathies. Her life was worth telling, and Mr. Hughes has told it well.

A Minister's Manual, arranged by M. E. Aubrey, C.H., M.A. (Kingsgate Press, 3s. 6d. net.)

This second edition has been enlarged and revised, and contains orders of service for marriage, dedication, baptism, communion, burial and other occasions. A final chapter gives important legal information.

The volume, which is tastefully produced, is enriched with prayers and addresses. Their chaste and reverent language makes them ideal: nevertheless, they are not intended to encourage slackness, and the author's note that they are offered only for suggestion should be borne in mind.

The Early Christian Attitude to War, by C. John Cadoux, M.A., D.D. (George Allen and Urwin, 5s. net.)

Current events have made inevitable renewed interest in the precise bearing of Christianity on war, and the publishers have done a real service in issuing this cheap edition of a book first published in 1919. It is a balanced historical and exegetical study of the early Christian attitude to war. The author announces another study to be published shortly, dealing with the "other considerations" which enter into the practical ethical problem Christians have to face to-day.