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government override providence. It is unjust, because its aim is to treat all as nearly alike as possible; and because there is no injustice so great as that of treating unequals as if they were equal. It is absurd, because "it is an attempt to make the world better without making men better". We cannot, therefore, agree with Mr. Stelzle when he says "that a man has a perfect right to be a Socialist, if he is convinced that Socialism is morally and economically sound". No one has a right to be convinced that a system is morally and economically sound which is essentially irreligious, unjust and absurd.

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PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Life's Unexpected Issues and Other Papers on Character and Conduct.

By WILLIAM L. WATKINSON, D.D., LL.D., author of "The Fatal Barter", "The Bane and the Antidote", "The Blind Spot", etc. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. 1912. 12mo; pp. 212. \$1.00 net.

A volume of sermons by this celebrated preacher always makes delightful and profitable reading. These seventeen discourses are thoroughly characteristic of his homiletic art. They reveal an unusual intellectual versatility and breadth, combined with tender spiritual fervor and exquisite graces of style. The venerable editor and preacher gleaned from many fields of literature and makes the scientific study of nature yield a wealth of strikingly apt illustrations. He has an uncommon power of drawing novel and instructive lessons from familiar texts.

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The James Sprunt Lectures delivered at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. *The Sermon: Its Construction and Delivery.* By DAVID JAMES BURRELL, D.D., LL.D., Pastor Marble Collegiate Church, New York. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. 1913. 8vo; cloth, pp. 329. \$1.50 net.

"This book is made up, for the most part", says the Preface, "of material used in Princeton Theological Seminary, where the author recently supplied a four years' vacancy in the chair of Homiletics. The lectures . . . were afterwards revised and committed to writing for use in other seminaries and ministerial associations. They have been still further revised and reduced to their present form to meet the requirements of the James Sprunt Lectureship in the Union Theological Seminary of Richmond, Va."

The introductory chapter is an incisive discussion of the definition of the sermon, "an address to a congregation on the subject of religion from the standpoint of the Scriptures, with the purpose of persuading men". The seven main divisions of the work are devoted to the con-

sideration of the following subjects: Texts and Topics; The Outline of the Sermon (with an excellent treatment of textual and expository outlines, and a well illustrated discussion of topical outlines with special reference to ethical, doctrinal, historical, biographical, and evangelistic sermons); The Body of the Sermon (presented under the three heads, the exordium, the argument, and the peroration); The Forensic or Finished Discourse (style, illustration, humor in the pulpit); The Delivery of the Sermon; Getting Attention; Pulpit Power (its secret; Christ our model).

In this manual on preaching, as in his own sermons, Dr. Burrell treats everything in a fresh, vital, practical way. The fundamental principles of effective sermonizing are clearly stated, admirably illustrated, and convincingly applied to the many details of the preacher's art. The suggestions and counsels given at the conclusion of most of the chapters are invariably judicious and helpful, while the many quotations from other homiletic works will serve to stimulate the reader to consult the best literature on special phases of the subject.

The chapters on illustration and delivery are especially suggestive, and valuable, but the whole book will well repay the preacher and the theological student for the careful perusal of its pages. An acknowledged master of the pulpit here gives us the wisdom of a lifetime of devoted and most successful service in the ministry of the Word.

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FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

Efficient Religion. By GEORGE ARTHUR ANDREWS, author of "What is Essential". New York: George H. Doran Company. 1912. 12mo; pp. 178. \$1.00 net

Accepting the utilitarian temper of our age as one of its most important characteristics, the author undertakes to answer the question, "What is the use of the religion of Jesus? What is it good for? What can it do?" The writer makes no attempt at an exhaustive exhibition of the evidence, but rather, assuming its adequacy, suggests a basis in reason for our practical acceptance of the claims of the Gospel. The argument, stated summarily, is that a Christian is a man who has a "profitable faith", "practicable love", "prevailing prayer", "loving forgiveness", "abundant health", "sufficient consolation", "sustaining strength", "satisfying joy", "attainable peace", and "achieving power". The spirit of the discussions may be fairly inferred from the statement that the religion of Jesus must be rescued "from the realm of intellectual thought" and brought "into the realm of efficient action". In the sequel we find the author tarrying about as long in the former as in the latter sphere, for he must needs offer us his own "concepts" and "speculations" as to the truths he wishes us to adopt as principles of conduct. But in spite of this treacherous antithesis between thought and life, he presents a great deal of truth that every Christian can verify in his own experience.

Princeton.

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