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A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF REV. HENRY ELIAS DOSKER, D. D., LL. D., L. H. D.

*(Professor of Church History, Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary, 1903-1926).*

BY REV. JOHN M. VANDER MEULEN, D. D., LL. D.,
President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

For those not well acquainted with Dr. Dosker, it may be well, before my expression of appreciation of him, to give, in a few words, the data of his life.

He was born in the Netherlands in February, 1855, at Bunschoten. His father was the Rev. Nicholas Herman Dosker, pastor of the Christian Reformed Church at Bunschoten, and his mother was Wilhelmina De Ronden. Henry Elias, for that was the name given him, was educated in the Dutch Gymnasium, a school of secondary education that corresponds roughly to our academy or high school. The family came to this country in 1870, the Rev. Nicholas Dosker having accepted a call to take the ministry of the Second (Dutch) Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Henry E. was sent to Hope College, Holland, Michigan, from which he graduated and of which he was one of the most distinguished alumni. He then entered McCormick Seminary without, of course, leaving the membership of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. His first church was a country pastorate in Ebenezer, near the city of Holland, Michigan. His second church was the First Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan,

chapters on *The Child in Our Day*, *Woman's New Place in the World*, *The Trend of Family Life*, *Country Life*, *City Life*, *Christian Statesmanship*, *The Race Problem*, *Christianity as a Way of Life*, and so forth.

It can hardly be said that this volume is a unit. Perhaps it would be better to call it a volume of twenty-nine essays, written on related subjects by unrelated men and women. These chapters are of varying interest and value. Taking them all together, they form a book that is well worth while. All five volumes put together constitute a notable achievement in the book world. They deal with great subjects in a scholarly but popular manner. The printer has done his work well, and has printed five large books, which are handsomely illustrated and made exceedingly attractive to the eye.

WALTER L. LINGLE.

Assembly's Training School.

BIOGRAPHY.

MEMORIES OF A HAPPY LIFE. *By William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts.* Houghton Mifflin Company, New York. Pp. 452. \$5. Few churchmen of any age have lived a more rich and fruitful life than William Lawrence, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Scion of a historic New England family, possessing wealth, culture and influence, he became a rector in the Episcopal Church, and after a few years of service in parish and university was elected Bishop of Massachusetts as the successor of Phillips Brooks. It would be impossible in the space we have at our disposal to recount the services that Bishop Lawrence rendered to his Church and to the State. The story is told us in some detail, yet interestingly, in the pages of this notable biography. To read it gives one not only the story of a life, but also a glimpse into much of the recent history of New England, religious and otherwise, as well as many revealing contacts with the great figures of England and America. It is, in addition, a rich contribution to the philosophy of living.

ERNEST TRICE THOMPSON.

Union Theological Seminary.

GEORGE HODGES. *By Julia Shelley Hodges.* The Century Co., New York City. Pp. 242. \$2. George Hodges worked in the Kingdom of God as assistant minister and rector of Calvary Church in Pittsburgh for thirteen years, and as Dean of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge for more than a quarter of a century.

In Pittsburgh he did a notable work, and won the affections of the city as few men have. In the second position he became known throughout the country as a preacher and lecturer of unusual charm. He wrote thirty-eight books and contributed to numerous magazines.

He was one of the first preachers in the country to stress the social gospel, and was a notable exponent of church unity.

The story of his life is told us very simply, yet most interestingly, by his wife. From the standpoint of real helpfulness to the minister we have no hesitation in saying that this is one of the most valuable of recent biographies. It is as good as a course in pastoral theology and homiletics combined, and much more interesting. Through it George Hodges, one of the most useful of God's servants in the past generation, still speaks.

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RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS. *By Newman Smyth.* Charles Scribner's Sons. Pp. 244. \$2. Newman Smyth was one of the outstanding clergymen of America, and one of the first to espouse and champion the liberal theology. Shortly before his death, January 6, 1925, he completed the last pages of this book, containing recollections of the outstanding events in his life, and some of his mature reflections on the same. Since Dr. Smyth's service to the church was a rich and varied one, there is necessarily much in his book that is stimulating and inspiring. Since he was a pioneer in liberalism, and contributed to the downfall of Calvinism in New England, there is much that antagonizes the conservative Presbyterian. But the book is worth reading for the light it throws on contemporary conditions; for the insight it gives us into the soul of Newman Smyth. These quotations give us the spirit of the man: "In my youth I consecrated my ministry to the search for truth. . . . At whatever time in his life it may be, younger or later on, a man becomes really old when his view of life becomes incapable of enlargement, his habits of thought hardened, and when his faith clothed in a ceremonial strait-jacket, has no freedom left in which to grow."

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