

Essays on the Social Gospel. By Adolf Harnack and Wilhelm Herrmann. Translated by G. M. Craik and edited by Maurice A. Canney. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.

This translation of three notable addresses of two leading German theologians on the application of Christianity to the problems of modern life should find hearty welcome in America. The first paper, by Professor Harnack, is on the relation of the Church to social and economic reform. After review of the attitude of organized Christianity toward social movements, especially under Luther and the times immediately following, the author sets forth his conception of the present duty of the Church in a manner very enlightening to those who are inquiring why there is not more cordial sympathy between liberal German Protestants and the Social Democrats. The essay is very instructive also on the subject of the true genius of the Christian religion, and as to just how much can be expected of the Church in the way of encouragement of economic improvement. Important considerations are presented to those who advocate from either side, the alliance of Christianity and socialism. A second paper by Professor Harnack is on "The Moral and Social Significance of Modern Education," with special reference to dangers in present systems and practices. The essay of Professor Herrmann on "The Moral Teaching of Jesus" is particularly timely and valuable. Every one has struggled with the precepts of the gospel, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth," "Resist not evil," and a variety of interpreta-

tions and solutions are current, but no recent writer has faced the facts more resolutely nor considered the entire problem in its broad relations with saner judgment than has Professor Herrmann. His presentation of the relief to Christian ethics, both in point of clarity and of moral effectiveness, from the critical understanding of the Gospels and of the teaching of Jesus, is highly suggestive and is calculated to lift a load from many lives. His description of certain enthusiastic attempts to carry out the precepts of Jesus in all respects as in reality the translation into modern life of the spirit of Jesus's enemies, rather than the Master's own spirit, is a masterly piece of historical interpretation. The essay is not light reading, but the reader who takes the pains to work his way into its spirit will be rewarded.