

Mr. Oldham frankly adopts the point of view of the body of Christian believers, rightly pointing out that the maintenance of a point of view is legitimate provided it is openly avowed, and is not allowed to obscure or distort the facts. Throughout the book an admirable emphasis is laid on facts as the only basis for sound scientific conclusions, however the interpretation of the facts may be influenced by the primary point of view.

The author recognizes the complexity of his task by noting the deep "questioning regarding the meaning and purpose of human life" that pervades the western world, and immediately gives an unconscious illustration of this truth in his statement that "Nothing is more important for the future of mankind on this planet than to get rid of war." Is this true? Is war the worst of all possible evils? "What Price Glory?" has its correlative query, "What Price Peace?" To imagine an extreme case for purposes of illustration: Suppose that the alternative to war was a complete submergence of the various diversified branches of the white race in a great flood of Mongol humanity and oriental culture. Which would be the greater evil? Answers will differ.

Perhaps the most vulnerable spot in the book is traceable to the very fact that the problem which the author is trying to solve is not solved — the fundamental problem of the character and meaning of race itself. Being himself, one may assume, not a biologist, he is compelled to rely for his facts in this particular on biological specialists, and they, alas! have not yet revealed the full facts of human biology in a convincing way. A large part of his argument revolves around the thesis that racial antipathy "is not instinctive or inborn", and as one

RACE AND CHRISTIANITY

By Henry Pratt Fairchild

"CHRISTIANITY and the Race Problem" is the kind of book we need. Not because it gives a final and convincing answer to all the grave questions which it faces, but because it does face them squarely, bravely, and in the true spirit of scientific research. The problem of race and population is so insistent and so menacing that we can welcome warmly every effort to find some solution, whatever the angle of approach. It is such a manysided problem that truth can come only by attacking it from every reasonable point of view.

proof he cites the fact that it seldom displays itself in young children. That is a test of instinctive behavior which, if applied generally, would eliminate the instinctive character from the nest building of birds, the egg laying of wasps, the mating of all bisexual species, and innumerable other acts universally regarded as instinctive. Much more important, however, is the question whether anything which is not instinctive, or at least "inborn", can be called racial at all in the correct sense of the word.

The point of these various criticisms is not to discredit the book, but just the reverse. They illustrate the extreme complexity of the problem, and emphasize the need of similar scientific studies from as many different points of view as possible. Mr. Oldham has given us the Christian interpretation most satisfactorily, and the general principles and practical suggestions with which he closes may well be carefully considered not only by Christians, but by persons of every religion or of no religion.

Christianity and the Race Problem. By J. H. Oldham. George H. Doran Company.