

Book Notices.

"The Philippines and the Far East."
By Homer C. Stuntz. Cincinnati:
Jennings & Pye. Toronto:
William Briggs. Pp. 514. Price,
\$1.75 net.

Much has been written on the political problems resulting from that marvelous day's work when Admiral Dewey entered Manila harbour, and in an hour changed the destiny of the Philippines. But we know no book in which the religious problems have been so fully and wisely treated as in this one. Dr. Stuntz has special qualifications for his task. He has had eight years' experience among similar social conditions in British India, and two years' residence in the Philippines. "Here are eight millions of people," he says, "emerging from the twilight of a belated civilization into the high noon of modern life. If the purposes of God for them in the Philippines, and through them among the seven hundred million Asiatics by whom they are surrounded are accomplished there must be not only evangelization, but legislation. Bad laws must be repealed, and good ones enacted. Education and just administration are as certainly," he adds, "a part of the programme of Jesus Christ for the Filipino people, as the establishment of a Christian Church."

Dr. Stuntz, in five hundred lucid and luminous pages, discusses this whole question—the social order and general characteristics of the archipelago, its history, the Friars, the American occupation, constructive legislation, educating a nation, religious conditions, difficulties, and problems. He has hearty sympathy with the Filipinos, points out their many admirable qualities, despite the bad training and misgovernment which they have suffered.

The great work of educating a nation is one of the noblest we can conceive. The photo groups of bright students at school and at work are an augury full of hope. The ship-load of teachers sent to the Philippines, full of moral and intellectual enthusiasm, was the best gift of the nation to these conquered peoples. Before the smoke of battle had drifted away the teachers were gathering the children into school.

With the teacher came the preacher. It is gratifying to know that the

first Protestant service was held by a Methodist chaplain. The first Protestant missionary was Bishop Thoburn, followed by that stalwart Canadian, Bishop Warren, who, on his way to the General Conference, chose to remain at work in the Philippines. In two years Bishop Warren reported a native church of 200 members, with 609 adherents. On Christmas Day, 1901, 300 native converts were admitted from probation, and over 400 partook of the Holy Supper. The owner of a cockpit gave it up as a church, and became a Methodist preacher. On January 1st, 1902, the Philippine Christian Advocate was issued, and that year the Methodist press turned out 4,000,000 pages of literature. In October, 1903, 1,800 adults attended a typical Methodist class-meeting in Manila. The marriage fees from 2,475 weddings were given to the work, and the missionary report of 1903-4 records 6,842 members, with 4,180 adherents.

The white man's civilization has brought its bane as well as its blessing. The worst of these is the drink curse. Saloons sprang up on every hand. "Soldiers lay sodden drunk in the highway, the national honour was dragged in the very dirt of the street." Saloon licenses were fixed at the ridiculous figure of \$4. A change has since been made; saloons pay \$800 for a license. The number of native wine-shops in Manila has been reduced from 4,000 to 1,168, and 157 spirit shops. This will compare favourably with 513 in Washington, 3,007 in San Francisco, 6,460 in Chicago, and 10,832 in New York. The book is a record of marvellous progress, and an inspiration to further effort.

Dr. Stuntz is an ardent pro-Japanese. "If Russia should win," he says, "the missionary and philanthropic progress in the East would be indefinitely postponed. Her intolerance and bigotry would freeze the very fountains of Christian civilization. No calamity now impending in any quarter of the world can be compared in its baleful significance for the Kingdom of Righteousness with the Russian menace." These are weighty words from a man who knows the East so well.

This is a book of such importance that we shall devote to it a special article.