

general notion. These are illustrated, after a full and luminous discussion, by several specimen lessons, which greatly enhance the value of the book. Among these illustrative lessons is one based on the parable of the tares. The generalization to which the teacher desires to bring his pupils by means of this parable is assumed to be the one stated in the command, "Judge not that ye be not judged." This being too abstract an end to be stated at the outset to a class of, say, ten year old children, the teacher announces it as his aim, "to find out what Christ meant by His story about removing weeds from wheat." The first step is to relate the story of the child's previous knowledge by well-directed questions about the weeds he knows. Interest being thus excited, the second step is to impress the facts of the story on the pupils' minds, and to point out the reference, to the sower, the field, the good seed, the tares, the harvest, the reapers. Thus far, the teacher has been dealing with individual, concrete notions. From these he must go on to the principles belonging to the Kingdom of God set forth in the parable. The third step is to get the pupils to think of various persons represented by the tares and to see the difficulty of deciding who really belong to this class. Then they are ready for the fourth step, which consists in laying down the principle, "Let both grow together until the harvest," and a comparison of this statement with the injunction, "Judge not that ye be not judged." The fifth step, by which the climax is reached, consists in applying this principle to the conduct of the pupils in relation to others. This book can be confidently recommen-

ed as based on sound psychological principles, and written in a clear and interesting style.

Village Life in China. By Arthur H. Smith, D.D. The Fleming H. Revell Co. Tenth thousand. 360 pages; price \$2.00.

Not only the great interest attaching at present to everything Chinese, but also the permanent value of this book, furnishes a sufficient reason for calling the attention to it, although it has been before the public for some time, and extracts from it were given in *THE KING'S OWN* on its first appearance. Near the close of the volume, the writer refers to the hidden current known to exist in the Formosa channel, which has caused the destruction of many a fine vessel, as illustrating the tendency to disunity inseparable from "the mechanical collocation of so many human beings into one compound-family on the Chinese plan." Dr. Smith gives a most illuminating account of the social problems which have arisen amongst a population exceeding in large districts two thousand to the square mile. The most acute social evils he traces to the marriage customs and the traditional mode of dividing family property. But he absolutely refuses to believe that a moral disease can be cured by an economic remedy, and looks for the regeneration of China only through the influences of Christianity. For many years this will be a standard book for students of the social condition of the Chinese Empire. Those who wish to see the real Chinese in his native surroundings will find him depicted in its pages by the hand of a master.



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