

are seeking mental and moral elevation, this book will give many helpful hints.

The Lost Centuries of Britain. By W. H. BABCOCK. Pp. 239. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.00.

The somewhat enigmatic name of this book refers to the obscure period between the departure of the Romans and the reorganization of society in the sixth century, the long submergence of Britain in a sea of darkness, unique perhaps in history of any European country. To this period belong the dramatic story of Hengist and Vortigern, of the beguiling Rowena, of Ambrose the Prince of the Sanctuary, and of the famous court of King Arthur and his Round Table. It is a dreamland of enchantment, the home of myths and shades, of ghostly battles and unreal adventures. Mr. Babcock has exhaustively studied the early literature of the subject, and has endeavoured to give "a local habitation" as well as "a name" to the striking actors and events of that period—a period which has furnished more subjects for splendid poetry, mediæval and modern, than, probably any other. It is a fascinating task admirably executed.

As we close this volume we feel that we have much clearer ideas of that important formative period of English history than we ever had before.

System of Christian Theology. By H. B. SMITH, D.D., LL.D. 8vo, pp. xx.-641. New York: A. C. Armstrong and the Willard Tract Society, Toronto.

Dr. Smith's "Theology," first published in 1834, has taken its place as a standard work. Of this the fact that the present is the fourth edition is satisfactory evidence. Dr. Smith now rests from his labour, but his works do follow him. This book is carefully edited by Dr. W. S. William Karr, Professor of Theology in the Hartford Theological Seminary. The present edition has an introduction

by the learned Dr. Hastings, President of Union Theological Seminary, and is admirably indexed and well annotated. Although Dr. Smith's point of view is that of an orthodox Presbyterian, yet, such is the strength of his treatment of the august themes of this volume, that it is quoted on both sides in recent discussions. By special arrangement with Dr. Smith's family, this new edition is issued at the low price of \$2.00.

Life's Phases. By JAMES STARK. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Price 85 cents.

This is a series of admirably written essays on some of the salient experiences of the human being from the cradle to the grave. The topics treated are: "At Home," "At School," "At the Divine Bar," "At the Cross," "At Church," "At the Footstool," "At our Wits' End," "At War," "At Work," "At Leisure," "At Play," "At the Altar," "At the Threshold," and at Rest." These essays are very thoughtful, suggestive and full of wise counsels. They are marked by distinctive literary merit, and abound in graphic illustrative incidents. A choice selection of pertinent mottoes, citing some of the best thoughts of the best thinkers of the day, is prefixed to each chapter.

The Protestantism of the Prayer Book. By DYSON HAGUE, M.A., Rector of St. Paul's, Halifax, N.S., Octavo. Pp. xix-171. Toronto: William Briggs.

While there is a party in the Church of England which rejects the good old name of Protestant, it is a pleasure to find such a strong and cogent treatise in defence of that time-honoured name, and of the thing which it signifies, as the volume before us. Mr. Dyson Hague devotes some introductory paragraphs to the anti-Protestant reaction of recent times; he then proceeds to demonstrate the essential Protestantism of the Prayer Book. He notes three special characteristics—it