

Book Notices.

"The Illustrated History of Methodism." By Rev. James W. Lee, D.D., Rev. N. Luccock, D.D., James M. Dixon, M.A. St. Louis and New York: The Methodist Magazine Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xxiv-759. Price, \$2.75.

The most significant phenomenon of the eighteenth century is the great religious revival under the Wesleys and their helpers. One of the most striking features of the nineteenth century is the rapid spread of Methodism through all lands. This stirring story is fully told in this handsome volume. It is the most sumptuous illustrated history of Methodism that we know. It contains over a thousand engravings of persons or places connected with this great religious movement. In a series of thirty-five well-written chapters, an account is given from its origin down to the present day. When was ever a more marvellous story told? Do you wish romance, surpassing that of fiction?—here you will find it. Do you seek records of heroism equal to those of the crusaders?—it is written in these pages. Do you long for religious inspiration and uplift?—it throbs and thrills in this record of trial and triumph. A well-written chapter is devoted to the progress of Methodism in Canada, with portraits of many of the men of light and leading who have moulded the religious life of this great Dominion.

"Marvels of Modern Mechanism and Their Relation to Social Betterment." By Jerome Bruce Crabtree. With special chapters by Carroll D. Wright, LL.D., and Willard Smith, M.D. The King-Richardson Co., Springfield, Mass., and Toronto. Pp. 750.

So familiar are we with the easements and benefits of modern civilization that it requires much effort to conceive the inconvenience and hardships we should endure without them. Mark Twain humorously illustrated this in his story of a Yankee at King Arthur's court. He would gladly exchange its feudal pomp and splendour for the comfort and convenience of his village home. The book under review gives an admirable description,

free from technicalities, of a few of the most striking inventions of modern times, and illustrates the part they have played in our industrial life. It is a tribute to the men who have "thought in iron and steel," and shows of what universal benefit their work has been.

"The demands of modern life," says the author, "are so exacting that the average man is prone to forget how much he owes to those who have helped to bring civilization out of savagery. This book is issued in the belief that he is unthoughtful rather than ungrateful, and that he will be glad to have their struggles and victories recalled to him."

The many marvels of mechanism are grouped under such heads as Modern Machinery; Power, Its Production and Use; Transportation, Its Relation to Progress; Electricity, Its Practical Applications; Iron and Steel Working, the Foundation of Industrial Life; Military Art and Science; Mineral Industries, Gold, Silver, Copper, Coal, Petroleum; Means of Communication, Telephone, Telegraph, Postal Service, Printing; Agricultural Machinery, How it Increases the Food Supply of the World; Modern Surgery; Housekeeper's Debt to Invention; Woman's Work and Training. These groups cover, it will be seen, almost the whole range of mechanism. A long list of authorities has been consulted. Dr. Carroll Wright, the distinguished economist, and Dr. Willard Smith, the eminent scientist, contribute special chapters. Many scores of engravings and full-page cuts illustrate the subject. The many topics are so lucidly treated that any intelligent boy will be fascinated with the book, which is yet so comprehensive that almost any practical mechanic can learn something new from its pages. It is like a course of technology to read these successive chapters. We have found great pleasure in the reading.

"The Progress of the Century. New York: Harper & Brothers. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. iv-583. Price, \$2.50.

With the close of the century appeared many reviews of its progress from almost every point of view. One