

enthusiasm for the Russian people and writes of them with warm sympathy. A quotation will make clear his point of view: "I told them my belief that Russia is the hope of Europe, that we are all looking to her, that she is the living East, the pole of mysticism, in opposition to America, the living West, the pole of materialism." He is very optimistic about the future of Christianity. "Perhaps 1,000 years hence," he says, "Christianity will have crystallized out, but as yet it is in the confused grandeur of youth." In Russia he finds Christianity still the living force which it has been before and can never wholly cease to be. He is equally devoted to the early Christianity of Egyptian saints and ascetics, spiritually the progenitors of the Byzantines and therefore of the Russians. "We make a mistake," he says, "when we talk of the dead past. It is a great religious truth that all that has ever lived, lives for ever." A visit to Egypt is an episode in the book, which however is mainly occupied with Russia. Those who wish to learn about Russia from one who knows it well, those who wish to be introduced to new aspects of life and faith, those who feel that their religious belief needs a quickening influence, should read this book. Moreover, the author possesses not only an intimate knowledge of his subject but also great literary power and the gift of pictorial and dramatic presentation.

The book ought to be of unusual interest to Canadians, who cannot fail to be attracted by its picturesque descriptions, its profound insight and its deep religious feeling.

FIRST RUSSIAN BOOK.

Nevill Forbes, M.A. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1915.

The publication of this book reminds us of the growing importance of the Russian language both to the commercial world and to the student of literature. The termination of the war will bring with it new conditions, and the hope may be expressed that the universities of Canada will make early provision for instruction in this language. This is not the place to enter into a detailed criticism of the above work. It may be said, however, that the name of Mr. Forbes is a guarantee of good work. The present volume of 216 pages, which does not include the Verb, is to be followed by two others; the second volume will deal with the Verb. This ought practically to complete the Grammar, but a third volume is also promised. It will be seen therefore that the total length is rather formidable, but the principle of numerous examples and lavish illustration is popular with many teachers of languages, and is in fact that followed in Riola's "How to Learn Russian." A comparison with this latter book may be deferred till Mr. Forbes' book is complete.