

Book Notices.

Christian Life in Germany as Seen in the State and the Church. By EDWARD F. WILLIAMS, D.D. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.50.

There are two Germans—the Germany of the barracks, the beer hall and the bureaucracy of Berlin, and the Germany of Christian thought and Christian work and Christian scholarship. This volume describes the latter—and the much more attractive aspect of Germany it is. The Bible is taught in all its schools, Protestant and Catholic. Amid much practical infidelity the form of Christianity at least is observed, and, indeed, enforced in all the military, naval and bureaucratic departments.

Some of the author's statements surprise us. We thought Germans were an intensely literary people. It seems that only a small section of them are such; that the mass of the people read few papers or books. One of the noblest characteristics of Christian life in Germany is its missionary zeal both at home and abroad. The Moravian missions antedate in time and surpass in relative missionary givings and zeal all other societies. The beautiful philanthropies of the inner mission, with their Christian zeal and faith and brotherhood, are an example to all Churches. We have described in these pages the noble work of Gossner, Wichern, Fleidner, and other pioneers in this work.

Dr. Williams devotes a number of chapters to the beautiful German charities for the care of defectives, of the sick, of the lapsed, of the fallen, the Colony of Mercy, the Y.M.C.A., the homes for inebriates, prison and social reform, the noble deaconess movement, the circulation of people's libraries, the new measures to meet the new dangers of the times, etc.

Francke's Orphan House, begun two hundred years ago, still flourishes. It has trained nearly 100,000 orphans; it has 3,300 pupils and 470 dependents, and is the largest establishment of the sort in the world. This forerunner of Müller found one morning in the box for the poor four dollars and a few pence. "That is a magnificent capital," he wrote with a magnificent faith. "I shall begin a school for the poor."

Pastor Fleidner's deaconess movement

is another marvellous development of Christian faith. It was begun in 1833, without funds, by receiving two penitent women in a little garden summer-house twelve feet square. In 1895 it had multiplied to 70 mother houses, 780 hospitals, 168 homes for the poor and feeble, 125 orphan houses, 48 nurseries, 20 homes for the reclamation of fallen women, 16 industrial schools, 50 establishments for the training of servant girls, 30 establishments for the weak-minded and epileptic, 2 asylums for the insane, 2 for the blind, 39 Magdaleniums, 9 prisons, 7 boarding-houses, or hospices, 451 schools for little children, and pastors' assistants in 1,017 parishes.

In these nearly 9,600 deaconesses, with Christlike devotion, are ministering to the sick, the suffering and the sorrowing. The united income of these homes is about 9,500,000 marks annually, equal to \$2,375,000. In their hospitals they care, every year, for over 60,000 patients, besides those receiving temporary treatment. They also labor annually in 2,500 private homes. Their purpose is not merely the alleviation of bodily distress, but to revive and deepen spiritual life. They have rendered splendid service in times of war, even upon the battlefields, and in epidemics of cholera and plague.

This book is of such surpassing interest that we shall place it in the hands of a competent writer who will prepare a special article on the subject.

The Story of Architecture: An Outline of the Styles in all Countries. By CHARLES THOMPSON MATHEWS, M.A. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xiv+468.

Many persons have no conception of the fascinating interest of the study of architecture. It is not a mere haphazard disconnected thing. It is a growth, an evolution along definite lines. One of the chief charms of travel is the study of the famous buildings, sacred and secular, ancient and modern, of many lands. When we discover the principle of construction they possess a unity amid their variety that gives them a living interest. The best book we know on this subject is that under review. Although not so full as Lübke's great work, its more