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Zechariah. In the introductory material the excellent little sketch of the Persian history of the period is deserving of mention as a feature of special usefulness.

The book is in two parts: Haggai and Zechariah in one, and Malachi the other. By this arrangement Malachi is assured a tolerable measure of prominence, but Haggai suffers to the advantage of Zechariah: his introduction is very scanty; the disproportion is even greater than the relatively greater bulk and significance of the material in Zechariah warrants. The contention for the early date of Zech., chaps. 9-14, that it was, indeed, written by a disciple and possibly a younger contemporary of Zechariah, is worked out with care and argued with considerable force, yet one completes the discussion with a feeling that it falls short of conviction. Typographical errors occur, as, for example, *hōrah* given as the Hebrew root of Torah (p. 15), and I. M. P. as the initials of the author on "Malachi" (p. lvii) in the *International Critical Commentary*.

#### Religious Education and American Democracy.

By Walter S. Athearn. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1917. Pp. xiii+394. \$1.50.

Democracy depends on the enlightenment of the people, but it depends not less on their spirit and ideals; for the former we have our public schools and our colleges, while for the latter we have made no general social provision. Religious training, absolutely necessary in a democracy, has as yet no adequate institutional life. This need Professor Athearn surveys; he proposes to meet it by the development of community effort and by the correlation of the many agencies already in the field. The book rises out of practical and valuable service and will aid others in working out their problems in their own communities. The community council is the author's special contribution. It deserves most careful study, for it is rich in promise. But he treats here also the work of the college in teaching the Bible and in training religious teachers. Some of the fundamental weaknesses of the present situation are disclosed especially in that the church colleges have given their largest attention to preparing teachers for public-school work instead of training those leaders who would solve the problems of the local church and community.

#### The Essentials of Religious Education. By

Charles W. Heathcote. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1916. Pp. 290. \$1.50.

So long as we think of religious education simply as instruction about religion its scope will be confined to knowledge, its activities to the Sunday school, and its materials to the Scriptures. Except in the sketchy historical survey

this is the point of view of this treatment of some of the elements of religious education. It would be helpful to any church-school teacher, for it gathers up much sound advice; but it hardly justifies the breadth of its title.

**The Psalms and Other Sacred Writings.** ("Biblical Introduction Series".) By F. C. Eiselen. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1918. Pp. 348. \$1.75.

This is the third of a series of four volumes, the first of which has already appeared (see *Biblical World*, L, 49). Like its predecessor this volume is well adapted to the purpose for which it was written. It is what it claims to be, "a scholarly, nontechnical introduction" to the books with which it deals. It covers the Psalter, Proverbs, Job, Canticles, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles. It does not, like some too concise introductions, exasperate the reader by a dogmatic statement of opinion, unaccompanied by any sufficient presentation of data in support of the opinion. The grounds for a decision are as fully presented as they can be within reasonable limits and for the nontechnical reader. The spirit of the book is thoroughly historical. Its evident purpose is to let the facts speak for themselves and to accept their testimony unreservedly. It is a most encouraging sign of progress to receive such a book from the press of a denominational publishing house. Publications of this type will aid greatly in producing an intelligent church, one of the supreme needs of this needy age.

Anyone who wishes a very brief account of Palestine in the New Testament times will find *The Cradle of Christianity* by S. P. T. Prideaux (New York: E. P. Dutton, \$1.50) a very valuable aid. The book deals with important matters, such as "The Messianic Hope," "Hellenism and the Dispersion," "Apocalyptic Literature," and "Jewish Parties." The volume is of especial value in that, brief as it is, it makes constant reference to the original sources.

After forty years of faithful service *Philochristus* (New York: Macmillan, \$1.75) has been republished. It is reissued without change and is too well known to need comment.

**Essays in Orthodoxy.** By Oliver Chase Quick. London: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. xliii+310. \$2.00.

It is hard pulling against wind and tide, and the able author of these *Essays in Orthodoxy*—the chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury