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shrewd, very practical and efficient, limited in certain directions, rather coarse-fibered in others." The critic spends many pages pointing out Arnold Bennett's weaknesses: "Neither he nor the state of society which he represents is like anything else in English history." In the *Five Towns* novel there is no ideal. There is no criticism. There is no tradition or philosophy of society. There is nothing but life as the people described live it and see it and feel it. "If all his novels were on the same plane as 'Old Wives' Tales,'" Arnold Bennett "would have recreated English fiction." Altho he has the little weaknesses of his individual virtues, it can be said with confidence that at the age of forty-seven he is capable of surpassing, in almost any direction, all except his very best work yet done.

#### HUSS AFTER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS

Schaff, D. S. (D.D.). *John Huss—His Life, Teachings, and Death—After Five Hundred Years*. Large 8vo, pp. xv-349. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.50 net.

Protestant Christianity has been celebrating the five-hundredth anniversary of John Huss's martyrdom. The opportuneness of this volume is therefore at once evident. Few lives of the great Bohemian are accessible in English, and most that are so accessible are either translations or are quite antiquated. An account by a modern historian well equipped for his task was consequently a desideratum. Dr. Schaff has especial qualifications. His contribution of two volumes, covering this period, to his father's "History of the Christian Church," included a survey of the material on Huss; his recent translation of Huss's work on "The Church" gave him a new grip on the subject; and special studies show their effect in an account that is eminently satisfactory. Without disparaging the work of Count Lützow, English readers may congratulate themselves on possessing an eminently informing and readable work on this subject.

Dr. Schaff has provided a good working bibliography, twelve chapters which include a discussion of the age of Huss, his life, his relations to Wyclif, the essentials of the intricate political situation and of the mixed ecclesiastical and scholastic conditions of the times as they bore on his case; two appendices, one chronological and one documentary, and a serviceable index. Two of the chapters discuss "Huss's Place in History" and his "Writings and the Hussites"—the latter showing the really continuous influence of the martyr down to the present in the Bohemian Brethren and the Moravian Church.

The impression made upon the reader is that under the views then current no other issue of the proceedings than Huss's condemnation was possible; on the other hand, without direct polemics, the utter badness of the ruling ideas then current in Church, State, and society is made evident.

#### SOUTH-AMERICAN CITIES

Hammerton, J. A. *The Real Argentina: Notes and Impressions of a Year in Argentina and Uruguay*. With sixty-five illustrations. Octavo, pp. 453. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.50 net.

Mr. Hammerton is an Englishman of the *nil admirari* type. But he has endeavored to write a true, unvarnished story of the marvelous civilization and development of that country of South America whose name itself is synonymous with opulence



—the Argentine Republic. He spent eight months in Argentina, learned the language of the country, and came in intimate contact with almost every side of the varied life of its famed capital, Buenos Aires—"the Paris of the New World," as it is sometimes called. In his introduction he refers to the "formidable list" of recent books on South America, and he apologizes for his own addition to the list on the ground that a large percentage of the publications in English are the "hasty records of fleeting visits" or "glorified advertising pamphlets." Mr. Hammerton indicts most writers on Argentina for their "indiscriminate praise and fulsome flattery of the country." He has eschewed statistics and politics, and has tried to give a truthful account of the human side of "these great cities of the River Plate." Sixty-five beautiful illustrations, mostly of architectural character, give the reader a vivid impression of South-American enterprise and art. The favorable impression thus created receives a rude jolt when the chapter on Buenos Aires is reached. "A splendid city of sham" is the author's characterization of the much-vaunted Argentine capital. Mr. Hammerton admits that he has Ruskin's prejudice in favor of buildings made of brick and stone. He found that the pretentious edifices of Buenos Aires were lath-and-plaster imitations of famous edifices in Europe. He admits, however, that these flimsy constructions have dignity and elegance. Official photographs "have conveyed to an envious Europe the idea that Buenos Aires eclipses her worn-out old cities in its architectural glories. A photograph "makes lath and plaster look like granite and porphyry."

#### CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

**Robinson, C. H. (D.D.). History of Christian Missions.** 8vo, pp. xiv-533. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.50 net.

The International Theological Library, to which this volume belongs, has set a high standard of execution. It embraces such notable works as Driver's "Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament," and Gregory's "Canon and Text of the New Testament." Expectations of good things are awakened, therefore, with each volume in the series.

Dr. Robinson, author of the present work, is Canon of Ripon and editorial secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. In the latter capacity he has had access to abundant data, and should be well qualified for a difficult task. He has provided an introduction on general lines, a chapter on missionary methods, one on The Dawn of Modern Missions (1580-1750), and then uses the geographical method to give the course and present condition of missionary effort throughout the world in nineteen chapters, including one each on Missions to Moslems and to Jews. Two chapters on Missionary Societies and The Outlook, with an index, complete the volume.

As already suggested, the subject is difficult. "The field is the world," and to complete a survey of the diverse and multifold operations that shall prove really intelligible requires a combination of qualities that few possess. Doubtless opinions will differ respecting Dr. Robinson's success. The present writer feels considerable disappointment. One reason is the scrappy character of much of the information. It might have been pos-

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