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most timely and suggestive way, with great clearness of thought and persuasiveness of appeal.

J. M. SHAW.

THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WORD OF MAN, by Karl Barth, translated from the German by Douglas Horton. (Congregational Publishing Society, Boston, 1928. 327 pp. 5 x 7½ in. \$2.25).

Chapter two of Karl Barth's "The Word of God and the Word of Man" is worth the price of the book, and will well repay reading and re-reading any number of times. It deals with "The strange new world within the Bible." It is the freshest, most refreshing interpretation of the Scripture, and presentation of the spiritual values to be found therein, that has appeared in recent years. With startling candor he warns against a too searching inquiry into the spiritual significance of the Bible, unless we are prepared to accept whole-heartedly its commanding spiritual imperative. Unless we are ready to obey the message of this "burning bush," it would be well for us not to draw near to it. The strange new world in the Bible is "the world of God."

The titles of these lectures, given on different occasions between 1916 and 1923, do not suggest the unity that in reality binds them together. Throughout there run certain ideas that are evidently fundamental in Prof. Barth's system, and upon which he lays constant emphasis and which he applies to our christian doctrines, our preaching, our ethics, our social theory, our attitude toward the Bible and toward the church. He holds tenaciously to the necessity for a divine revelation, if men are to know that there is a God and know anything about him. He knows no other proof of the underlying verities of our christian thought than the "reality of the living God, who is what he is, who is self-proved." (page 120).

Another fundamental article in his system is the tremendous and far-reaching significance of the Cross, which belongs to the Past, the Present and the Future. Thus does he interpret the verse in Hebrews, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today, yea and forever." There are many equally original interpretations and applications of the Scriptures.

Professor Barth is fond of the paradox, finding the full justification for the use of it in language in the contrasts and contradic-

tions of life. He startles his readers many, many times by his paradoxical way of putting things, and he will be misunderstood by many of them if they do not give heed to this method of his for bringing out the great teaching. He inspires an intelligent, rational attitude toward the Bible, which will make it a new and vastly influential book to most of his readers. He exalts the office and spiritual significance of the ministry, terrifying to the secular-minded and luring to those who live for the spirit. He makes the mission of the church so profoundly vital, that ecclesiastical ambition and denominational pride vanish before his words. He places the christian tradition and ideals as a great ferment in the present social order, so that one is afraid to pray "thy kingdom come," unless one really desires that the Kingdom should come, and that God's will should be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

The book is not always easy reading, and it will not be strange if many of its readers lose the author more than once, but by perseverance and tightening attention, they will find him again, and will rejoice in the fact. It is not necessary that every one of his views should be accepted to get the full benefit of his work. For the intellectual stimulus, the spiritual vision, the frank approach to the fundamental pressing problems of the day, the fresh treatment of old themes, the revealing interpretations of scripture, the book is to be commended to all ministers and thoughtful laymen. It is not difficult after reading this volume to understand the tremendous influence Prof. Barth is having in Germany. He is being heralded as a Second Luther.

GEORGE B. STEWART.

IMPORTANT TO ME, by Margaret Slattery. (The Pilgrim Press, Boston, 1928. 93 pp. 4¼ x 6½ in. \$1.00).

Miss Margaret Slattery, the author, is a popular speaker to young people, and the seven chapters of this book are evidently seven addresses in print. The chapter titles are: "I Am Important to Me—My Body," "I Am Important to Me—My Mind," "I Am Important to Me—My Spirit," "They Are Important to Me," "Religion is Important to Me," "The Church is Important to Me," "Am I Important to Anything?"

The book is a challenge to young people to be their best and truest selves as disciples of Jesus Christ.

J. ELMER RUSSELL.