

Review.

"God of the New Age" by ~~William~~ Eugene William Lyman D.D. Professor of ~~the~~ Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics, Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. The Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. 60 cents net.

This little book of some forty ~~pages~~ seven pages raises the very far reaching question as to the effect of the war upon our thought of God and our attitude towards religious life. Interesting as the book is at some points, as a whole it exhibits that confusion of thought and language that seems almost impossible to rid ourselves of. Just as the author seems to show something of ~~the~~ ^a real grip on present day conceptions and values, he drags in some phrase from the past that results in confusion and fog. The total result is that takes on the character of a rather superficial apologia for Christianity as a special dispensation in the world's history. In other words the book takes for granted in rather a naive manner the very question that is at issue at the present moment in ~~the~~ religious thought, -namely, the question of the validity of the claim of the Christian Church as to a finality in the life and teachings of Jesus. We read, -"Whereas in reality Christ so brought men into relation with God that his saving work is finding expression in ever more manifold and powerful forms." That may be said by Dr. Lyman concerning "the Christ" that Dr. Lyman finds in the New Testament, but who is to judge between the conception of the Christ who would be found in the front line trenches, and the conception of a Christ who would be in prison as a pacifist and conscientious objector. We speak of God as operating in history, but we relieve ourselves of embarrassing predicaments by precisely the same method ~~that~~ that the Pope permits himself to maintain his infallibility. He is infallible only when he speaks ex cathedra. In precisely the same manner we speak in a general way about the work of God in History, but we