

A New Work on South Arabia.

THERE has just been published (by the firm of Brill in Leiden) a book of nearly 800 pages, entitled *Études sur les dialectes de l'Arabie méridionale*, vol. i., 'Hadramoût.' Its author is Graf Dr. Carlo Landberg, well known as the first authority on the Arabic vulgar dialects. Reserving for a future occasion a more detailed account of this extremely important work, we would for the present simply point out that both the text (specimens of the Hadramitic language, in poetry

and prose, accompanied by a full commentary [pp. 1-515]) and the lexicon appended [pp. 517-741] contain a rich mass of information for the study of Hebrew words. It turns out that the modern dialect, hitherto almost unknown, of the ancient incense country, Hadramaut, has retained words which occur elsewhere with the same sense only in ancient Semitic languages such as Bab-Assyrian or Hebrew. On this account, apart from any other, the study of the above work may be most warmly commended to every Hebraist.

Munich.

FRITZ HOMMEL.

Entre Nous.

'FOR even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' The word is *κύματα*, 'the household dogs.' On which the Rev. A. C. Mackenzie, M.A., of Dundee, sends the following illustration:—

'In the April number of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, the Rev. David Smith, M.A., puts in a suggestive and ingenious plea (much needed in the case) for the humanities concealed by the apparent inhumanity of the saying of Jesus to the Syro-Phœnician woman. Mr. Smith lays stress, not unduly, on the diminutive. In further illustration may I relate an experience. Some years ago I was on holiday in a parish in the Highlands of Scotland, where the collie is regarded almost as one of the family. In the absence of the minister, I was called to visit the sick mother of a large family of young boys. She was a distant relative of the family with whom I lodged, and the collie of the house, with which I had formed a friendship, followed me. The boys knew the collie (a fine specimen of his kind, full of fun and gentleness), and in a few minutes they were rolling and tumbling about the hearth, welcoming him as an old friend. It was summer twilight, and the boys were half-undressed. The log fire threw fitful gleams of light over their rounded and bronzed limbs, reminding one of a canvas of Murillo's. I remarked to the mother, "Your boys are very good-natured." In the soft accent of the place, still more enfeebled by illness, she said, "O yes, they're just like doggies." One has only to be ignorant of what the collie is to a Highland family, and to sever this saying from its tone and surroundings, to make it into a very harsh saying indeed.

In situ, its humanity is the one thing about it that is most striking. The common sense of most N.T. readers has supplied the corrective which Mr. Smith's scholarly investigations have brought to bear upon a saying which, ignorantly or prosaically read, creates, as he says, a feeling of dismay.'

Canon Lister and the Rev. T. S. Dickson point out that, in the adoption of Mr. Beard's theory regarding the linen cloths and the napkin, Mr. Latham has been anticipated by Mr. R. M. Benson, who welcomes it in an elaborate note in the fourth volume of his *Final Passover*. In Canon Armitage Robinson's new volume of sermons, entitled *Unity in Christ* (Macmillan), the same explanation is given, evidently without any knowledge of Mr. Beard, Mr. Benson, or Mr. Latham, but from a scholar's study of the apostle's language. 'No human hands,' says Dr. Robinson, 'unwound the linen cloths in which the body had been swathed. Rather, it seemed, that they were undisturbed, and simply left an empty shell, as the resurrection change released the body from its material limitations and gave it a new spiritual freedom. Even the napkin that was about His head and face was not unfolded, but was rolled up as before, though it had fallen on one side.' The last remark is not in keeping with Mr. Beard, who held that the napkin still lay unmoved on its ledge, the head having simply left it. The rest is remarkably close.

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