

Recent Literature in Apologetics.

A GUIDE TO THE BUYING OF BOOKS.

I.

INTRODUCTION.—Thanks are due to those who have written so kindly about the first of these articles—"Recent Literature in Sermons"—which appeared in the January number. In regard to the present article, it will be understood that every contribution to recent apologetic is not found in it. Some books of value may not have been seen; some books have been seen and passed by as of no value. Some arrangement seems necessary. Were system and logic to rule, Ebrard might be followed. But we shall assert our British right to be less logical, and more immediately practical, and adopt the following rough division:—1. General and Systematic; 2. God and His Revelation (against Atheism and Agnosticism); 3. The Record of Revelation—The Old Testament; 4. Christ and Christianity.

I.

GENERAL AND SYSTEMATIC.

PUBLISHERS—W. Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh.

AUTHOR—Lewis Thornton.

TITLE—*Opposites. A Series of Essays on the Unpopular Sides of Popular Questions.* 8vo, pp. xiv., 380. 1890, 12s. 6d.

The first page of *Opposites* ends with this sentence: "But there is really a good deal to be said on the opposite side." Every page might end with it. Mr. Thornton acknowledges and deplors the possession of "such a funny mind," that, like Socrates and Artemus Ward, he always sees truth "upside down"; so that the moment he is presented with any popular belief, he "rushes off at a tangent to see its opposite side, and pick holes in it." Accordingly, his aim in this volume is, "after picking the requisite number of holes in atheism, deism, positivism, spiritualism, Islamism, orthodoxy [scientific quite as much as religious], and irregular evangelism, to extract from each something which looks like a modicum of truth." It is a book for the serious as well as the curious, but it is especially for the dogmatically minded. Mr. Thornton disclaims specialism, but he is no sciolist. His criticism is often acute, and always perfectly candid.

PUBLISHER—John Murray.

AUTHORS—Various.

EDITOR—Charles Gore, M.A., Principal of Pusey House.

TITLE—*Lux Mundi. A Series of Studies in the Religion of the Incarnation.* 8vo, pp. xxiv., 525. 1890, 14s. Also Preface to the Tenth Edition. 8vo, pp. xl., 526-538. 1890, 1s.

Lux Mundi has been so long in every one's mouth, that it is probably by this time in every one's hands, and needs

scarcely a place here. The Appendix, however, deserves notice, both because it is essentially a palm-branch, and because it adds an essay (by Mr. Gore) on the Christian Doctrine of Sin.

PUBLISHER—Richard D. Dickinson.

AUTHOR—Joseph Cook.

TITLE—*Current Religious Perils: with Preludes and other Addresses on Leading Reforms, and a Symposium on Vital and Progressive Orthodoxy. The Twelfth Series of the Boston Monday Lectures.* 8vo, pp. xiv., 415. 1888.

It has come to be the fashion in this country to lightly esteem the service of the Boston Monday Lectureship. But they who were brought to their knees by the early lectures on the Atonement will refuse to follow this fashion. The lectures are not the gospel, though the gospel is in them; and therefore it is marvellous that in these latest volumes the power and the interest show no sign of falling off. Here the variety is very great, yet there is a unity discoverable. Besides Mr. Cook's own Lectures, Preludes, and Addresses, there is a symposium on Current Religious Perils, and an Appendix on Creeds and Confessions.

PUBLISHERS—James Clarke & Co.

AUTHOR—Washington Gladden.

TITLE—*Burning Questions of the Life that now is and of that which is to come.* Crown 8vo, pp. 248. 1890, 3s. 6d.

There is no reference in Dr. Gladden's *Burning Questions* to future punishment, though it has been flippantly said that the title suggests it. Eight great questions are answered in brief compass, but with confidence and skill, and a keen sense of present need. They are these: Has evolution abolished God? Can man know God? Is man only a machine? What is the use of prayer? Is death the end? Who is Jesus Christ? Are the Gospels fairy tales? Where is the Kingdom of God?

PUBLISHERS—T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh.

AUTHOR—J. H. A. Ebrard, Ph.D., D.D., Translated by Rev. John Macpherson, M.A.

TITLE—*Apologetics; or, The Scientific Vindication of Christianity.* 8vo, 3 vols., pp. xv., 407, 423, 406. 1886-87, 31s. 6d.

Perhaps we should have begun with Ebrard. It is the only book of recent origin which offers to cover the whole field. It is the only book which even attempts to raise Apologetics to the rank of a science; and it is a pity for our

credit that it should be German in origin. It is a pity also for the sake of first impressions. But Mr. Macpherson's translation is thoroughly well done, and the first effort is speedily rewarded as the subject opens up. A large portion of the book is occupied with a study of the religions of the world. That study alone would have made it a great book, unrivalled in recent literature.

PUBLISHER—C. H. Kelly.

AUTHOR—Joseph Agar Beet.

TITLE—The Credentials of the Gospel. A Statement of the Reasons of the Christian Hope. 8vo, pp. 199. 1889, 2s. 6d.

The nineteenth Fernley Lecture is of less weight avoirdupois, but it has *wucht* of its own. Mr. Beet is a clear thinker, and he is well read in his subject. Selecting his topics with judgment, he goes over a wide ground, touching into light many points which can be touched upon and nothing more. From this as a good introduction one could pass very profitably to Ebrard.

II.

AGAINST ATHEISM AND AGNOSTICISM.

PUBLISHERS—The Clarendon Press, Oxford.

AUTHOR—James Martineau, D.D., D.C.L., LL.D.

TITLE—A Study of Religion: its Sources and Contents. Second Edition revised. Crown 8vo, 2 vols., pp. xxx., 392, 400. 1889, 15s.

A Study of Religion—to which one turns with a sense of relief from the less savoury atmosphere of *The Seat of Authority*—is already a classic, and comes within our range only through this revised edition with its new Preface. Though Dr. Martineau himself hesitates to admit the book within the scope of that "uninviting word" Apologetics, its place is certainly here. The whole book is an effective apologetic for the "old belief" that God is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Its largest division is entitled Theism, and to that subject there is no better introduction. The new Preface adds little new matter, but sets the old in a clearer perspective.

PUBLISHERS—Macmillan & Co.

AUTHOR—Francis Ellingwood Abbot, Ph.D.

TITLE—Scientific Theism. Second Edition. Crown 8vo, pp. xxiv., 219. 1886, 7s. 6d.

Agnosticism is understood to have been born of the scientific method. Professor Abbot works along the lines of that very method, and seeks to show that it is both a philosophical and a scientific absurdity. Phenomenism—the philosophy that would rest content with things seen—is impossible. For every phenomenon we are obliged to supply in thought an object beyond itself—a noumenon—as its ground. Science must take account of this noumenon

also, and so is led irresistibly (if true to its own method) to the recognition of the universe as an infinite organism whose life-principle must be an infinite immanent personal Power. *Scientific Theism* is an able book, and will repay that patient study which its technical language and condensed argument demand.

PUBLISHERS—Macmillan & Co.

AUTHOR—Francis Ellingwood Abbot, Ph.D.

TITLE—The Way out of Agnosticism; or, The Philosophy of Free Religion. Crown 8vo, pp. xii., 83. 1890, 4s. 6d.

The Way out of Agnosticism deals with precisely the same subject as *Scientific Theism*. But it is mainly occupied with a vindication of that scientific method which is relied upon in securing that the science of the future be not agnostic. Those who read the earlier volume will read this also, and it is better to read the other first.

PUBLISHERS—T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh.

AUTHOR—James Hutchison Stirling, LL.D.

TITLE—Philosophy and Theology: being the First Edinburgh Gifford Lectures. Post 8vo, pp. xvi., 408. 1890, 9s.

There are mutterings and something more that the Gifford Lectureship is not to prove an unmixed gain to Apologetics. But the first Edinburgh Lectures may be accepted without misgiving. Their greatest merit is perhaps not in this line. Literature and philosophy may make a prior claim. But even when Aristotle is being brilliantly expounded and Hume dissected, even amidst every interesting digression, it is steadily borne in mind that the purpose of the lectureship is apologetic. The first ten lectures are "positive." They trace in the history of philosophy the evidences which great thinkers have found of design in the universe. The rest are "negative." They criticise the writings and the writers who reject design. The line of research is fresh, and conducted with conspicuous ability. So that here we have a distinct new contribution to our subject, and a very pleasant path leads to its acquisition.

PUBLISHERS—The Religious Tract Society.

AUTHORS—Various.

TITLE—Present Day Tracts on the Christian Philosophies of the Age. Crown 8vo. 1888, 3s. 6d.

The Present Day Tracts of the Religious Tract Society deserve their success. We believe that they have done more in recent years for the Apologetics of Christianity than any other book or books. Were there nothing else to keep alive the late secretary's memory, this series will do it. They may be had in three forms: singly at 4d., in volumes of six in the order of issue at 2s. 6d., and bound according to subject in special volumes of six at 2s. 6d., or eight at 3s. 6d. The last form is the best, and will be the most popular in the end. Here is one