

BRIEF NOTICES.

A Popular Commentary on the New Testament. By D. D. WHEEDON, D.D. Vols. I.—III. (Hodder and Stoughton.)—This Commentary, which extends to the Epistle to the Romans, is not, as its very title declares, addressed to scholars, or even to students of the Word. It is intended for readers of little culture and ordinary intelligence. And to these it can hardly fail to be useful and acceptable: for it is carefully written, and the author is evidently conversant not only with the works of many previous Expositors, but also with those lively and picturesque books of travel, such as Dean Stanley's and Dr. Thomson's, which throw so much light on the inspired page. His comments are for the most part brief, compressed, and to the purpose. But, occasionally at least, they betray a lack of the critical faculty and a theological tone of thought strangely at variance with his text. Thus, for example, in commenting on St. Matt. v. 7, he quite unnecessarily, with no prompting or suggestion from the verse itself, takes occasion to distinguish "between a virtue and a piety," and to affirm that "a virtue may exist in unregenerate nature," and is only "*in a sense* approved by God." Nor does he seem at all aware of the discordant note which he thus strikes, of the utter variance of his tone with the large, catholic, generous tone of the Sermon on the Mount. Yet to depreciate "*mere* virtue" and "*moral* excellence" is surely to betray a spirit at the farthest remove from that of Him who loved excellence wherever He found it, and found much to admire and love in the natural virtues of little children, and even of the "sinners" whom He drew to Himself.

From Jerusalem to Antioch. By J. OSWALD DYKES, M.A., D.D. (Hodder and Stoughton.)—All who have heard Dr. Dykes will expect to find in these Expository Lectures on Acts i.—xii. much and clear thought, based on competent knowledge of his theme, expressed in a style of rare, if somewhat laboured, finish and beauty, and informed by a devout and refined spirit. Nor will they be disappointed. All these excellent qualities are happily displayed in the volume before us.