

Reviews.



Introduction to the Old Testament, in Greek. By H. B. SWETE, D.D.,
Regius Professor of Divinity, Cambridge. Cambridge University
Press. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS is one of the best arranged and most serviceable handbooks to the study of an ancient literature that we have ever seen. The fact that Dr. Swete is the author of the book is sufficient guarantee that the work is scholarly, but we hardly expected to find that Dr. Swete had accomplished his task so fully, and with such complete mastery of the material at his disposal. The LXX is a fine field, indeed, for the investigator, for it has been little worked till recent years; but this very fact makes the pioneer's work all the more arduous. Thanks, however, to the great Oxford Concordance, now almost completed, to Dr. Swete's own admirable edition of the text (Cambridge "Manual" edition), and to the Introduction before us, we sincerely hope that scholars will not neglect the study of this "literature," for the LXX is a veritable literature in itself, and demands its adequate share of attention.

Dr. Swete's Introduction is divided into three main divisions: (1) The History of the Greek Old Testament and of its Transmission; (2) The Contents of the Alexandrian Old Testament; (3) The Literary Use, Value, and Textual Condition of the Greek Old Testament.

Mr. H. St. J. Thackeray contributes a critically revised text of the letter to Aristæus (see Appendix); and the book concludes with two indices—the one of Biblical references, the other of subject-matter. The latter might advantageously be enlarged in a second edition of the book. We venture to quote here Dr. Swete's "dedication," as it shows, most pleasantly, the increased cordiality between German and English theological scholars which the past few years has witnessed so noticeably:

EBERHARDO NESTLE,
VIBO, SI QUIS ALIUS, DE HIS STUDIUS
OPTIME MERITO
HUIUS OPERIS ADJUTORI HUMANISSIMO.

We should like to add that, in his Prefatory Note, Dr. Swete, besides promising us a large critical edition of the LXX, holds out hopes of a "grammar" of Septuagint Greek being undertaken by himself and his *collaborateurs*. This is excellent news, and we hope that neither work will be unduly delayed.

E. H. B.

The Intermediate State, and Prayers for the Dead. By Rev. C. H. H. WRIGHT, D.D. London: Nisbet. 1900. Price 6s.

This is a valuable work on every count. Dr. Wright is too well known as a scholar to need any introduction to our readers here; and it will be sufficient to say that the book, though evidently written with a controversial object and from a popular point of view, is a scholarly performance.

Dr. Wright examines the whole subject from three standpoints: (1) That of Scripture; (2) that of ancient Jewish literature; (3) that of Christian literature. The writer's knowledge of ancient Jewish literature is evidently wide and thorough; and the second section of the book is, therefore, particularly useful, as materials for forming a sound judgment on the question at issue are, in this connection, difficult so far as "the general reader" is concerned.

Dr. Wright's position is that of an uncompromising Protestant; but his Protestantism, unlike the Protestantism of so many noisy folk to-day, is

the result of careful and patient thought, not of prejudice, and is founded upon a substructure of learning and sense, not of an idle love of contention and strife.

Short Notices.

The Temple: its Ministry and Services as they were at the Time of Jesus Christ. DR. EDERSHEIM. R.T.S. Pp. 414.

A very valuable store of illustration and information to readers of the New Testament by one well acquainted with the literature and history of the subject.

Golden Sunbeams. Vol. IV. S.P.C.K. Pp. 192. Price 1s. 4d.

This is a Church Magazine for children, and is very happily conceived and attractively illustrated.

Red-Letter Saints. S.P.C.K. Pp. 75. Seventeenth thousand.

Short accounts of the Saints, for whom proper Collects, Epistles, and Gospels are appointed by the Book of Common Prayer, illustrated with coloured and gilded designs after the type of painted windows; a very pretty and popular work.

John Dobby's Better Nature. EMILY PEARSON FINNEMORE. S.P.C.K. Pp. 221.

A well-told tale of village life: mistakes, instruction, improvement.

The Fireside Annual Volume. "Home Words" Publishing Office. Pp. 762. Price 7s. 6d.

A useful and interesting medley of sound and wholesome reading; stories, sermons, subject-papers, sketches, poems.

Hand and Heart Annual Volume, 1900. "Home Words" Publishing Office. Pp. 236. Price 2s.

This magazine, which is meant for family, social, and temperance purposes, has much variety and capital illustrations. It is a good two shillings' worth.

The Church Monthly Annual Volume, 1900. "Church Monthly" Office. Pp. 284.

Mr. Sherlock again presents us with a very delightful volume. Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons, Canons, novelists, essayists, poets, artists are among his contributors. "Rambles of a Naturalist," "Curiosities," "Our Parish Churches," Biographies, Bible Questions, Buried Truths, and new hymns and music are amongst its chief attractions.

The Quiver Yearly Volume. Cassell and Co. Pp. 1,152. Price 7s. 6d.

The beauty of the illustrations (there are 800 of them), the excellence of paper and type, the variety of the matter, and the high character of the contributors, continue to give this excellent collection a high place in monthly journalism. Among the writers are Archbishop Alexander, Bishop Chadwick, Bishop Ryle, Professor Marcus Dods, Professor Moule, Sir George Martin, and Sir Frederick Bridge. There are few topics of interest to general readers not touched in these pages.