

The Church Congress which is to be held next month promises some very interesting discussions; but deep sympathy will be felt with the Bishop of Peterborough in his enforced absence, and it will be a great disappointment to the members that his voice cannot be heard among them. The position of the Church is at the present moment a critical one in several respects. Questions of the greatest gravity in doctrine, in Biblical criticism, in discipline, and in education, have assumed a very urgent character, and will require the greatest wisdom and patience. All can pray, and ought to pray very earnestly, that this wisdom and patience may be granted to those who have to deal with such questions; and if they are approached in a spirit of charity, we may be sure that none of them are incapable of peaceful solution.

Reviews.

Dictionary of the Bible. Vol. iv. (completing the work). Edited by the Rev. J. HASTINGS, D.D. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

Encyclopædia Biblica: A Critical Dictionary, etc., of the Bible. Vol. iii. (L-P). Edited by the Rev. T. K. CHEYNE, D.D., and J. S. BLACK, LL.D. Adam and Charles Black: 1902.

OUR first duty is to congratulate the editor and publishers of the "Dictionary of the Bible" on bringing a noteworthy piece of work to a successful conclusion. The first volume of Dr. Hastings' "Dictionary" made its appearance in the spring of 1898, and the concluding volume has only recently been published. That a work comprising nearly 4,000 closely-printed pages, and contributed to by a number of divines, both English and foreign, should have taken but four years to see through the press is a tribute in itself to the laborious care that has been expended over it by editors, publishers, printers, and contributors alike. For it is to be remembered that the sheets of the work have not been allowed to be printed off and then lie by for months or years, as the case might be; in the majority of instances it will be found that the various articles have been so scrupulously edited as to be, in the best sense, "up-to-date"; the bibliographies—a sure test of the accuracy of a work of this kind—are, as a rule, thorough and complete, and the latest and best editions of the works of reference named in the articles are always, or nearly always, those utilized.

We have already, on three separate occasions, spoken of the methods adopted by the editor-in-chief in rendering the "Dictionary" an indispensable work of reference for all those interested in Biblical studies. There is, therefore, no need here to enter into particulars. The merits of Dr. Hastings' work are widely recognised; and, in general, the sobriety of the

work, and its scholarly completeness, are things to be thankful for. We cannot but regret that, in the main, the chief conclusions of the Higher Criticism have been adopted throughout the work; but the vagaries of modern criticism, the passion for something new at the expense of what is true, the tendency to upset the traditional view simply because it is traditional or in the interests of a rationalistic interpretation of religion—these things have been studiously avoided. Hence the book may be regarded as, generally, a trustworthy attempt to present the more moderate views of criticism in clear and orderly arrangement; and the reverential tone maintained in handling the sacred Scriptures will be appreciated by those to whom the cynical indifference or lightly-veiled hostility of some "modern critics" are little short of detestable.

The opening words of the Editor's preface to the final volume deserve quotation: "In issuing the last volume of the 'Dictionary of the Bible,' the Editor desires to record his sense of the goodness of God in enabling him to carry it through to the end, and to beseech His blessing on the use of it, that His Name may be glorified." The spirit evinced by these brief words is indeed welcome.

No less than 115 writers have contributed to vol. iv.; of these we note that four have died since their contributions were sent in—among them Dr. A. B. Davidson, one of the collaborators in the editing of the work. Only seven of the contributors are Continental; the rest are British or American. In this point Dr. Hastings' "Dictionary" compares, as we think, favourably with "Encyclopædia Biblica," to which a great number of Continental critics have contributed. Indeed, there does not appear to be any valid reason why, in an English work of reference, German and Swiss Rationalists should be invited to give expression to passing hypotheses, as though these constituted ascertained truths.

The first important article in vol. iv. is K. Budde's "Hebrew Poetry." His treatment of "parallelism" (better designated "correspondence") appears to us inadequate; and not a word is said of the work of the late Rev. T. Boys in this direction, though his "Tactica Sacra," "Key to the Psalms," and other books are obtainable. And yet Boys was a pioneer in the study of the structure of Hebrew poetry.

Passing on, we note an important doctrinal article (the "Dictionary of the Bible" is rich in doctrinal articles) on "Predestination," which, for an article on so worried a subject, appears singularly clear and free from bias; and the same may be said of Dr. Laidlaw's note on "Psychology." Professor W. Baudissin's long and elaborate "Priests and Levites" is full of learning; but the note on the literature of the subject, at the close of the article, is by no means complete; hardly any references to English works occur.

To the article "Psalms" one turns, naturally, with interest not unmixed with curiosity. The writer, Dr. W. T. Davison, while rejecting the traditional view as to authorship, etc., wisely declines to identify himself with the extreme position maintained by Cheyne. He holds that the probability is that David wrote many psalms, that it is very unlikely

that all were lost, and that some of those ascribed to him are appropriate enough in his lips ; and concludes by thinking that from ten to twenty psalms may have come down to us from David's pen. As to whether any Maccabean psalms appear in the Psalter, he believes that, in any case, the number cannot be large, but that the possibility that some psalms were included must be left open. Dr. Davison's bibliographical note is useful, but not complete ; one is glad to note his commendation of Calvin's masterly exposition (1557).

The difficult and thorny subject of the "Book of Revelation" was entrusted to Professor F. C. Porter (Yale), and his discussion of the problems involved in a study of that supremely fascinating yet elusive book practically amounts to a treatise. The writer devotes considerable space to a consideration of Gunkel's epoch-making work (1895) ; but serious doubt must be felt as regards Gunkel's conclusions. It is curious to find so inadequate a "bibliography" at the end of so thorough a discussion ; we may very well decline assent to the views of Futurist and Historicist alike in elucidating "Revelation," but at least the chief works evolved by these two schools deserve mention. Govett's "Apocalypse," E. B. Elliot's "Horæ Apocalypticæ," and the books of Mede and G. S. Faber, ought not to have been neglected. Dr. A. Robertson's article on the "Romans" is admirable, and among other articles dealing with Old Testament or New Testament books may be named Dr. Lock's "The Epistles to Timothy," and the "Epistles to the Thessalonians" by the same writer. A special note of admiration may be affixed to Professor Eb. Nestle's "Book of Sirach," an article which is characterized by exemplary learning and thoroughness. The same writer discusses the "Text of the New Testament" and the "Septuagint" with characteristic fulness. The article "Writing" has fallen to the lot of Mr. F. G. Kenyon, perhaps the most learned epigraphist we possess ; it is a most instructive essay, learned, yet one which it is a pleasure to peruse. So far, we have merely mentioned a few of the longer articles, but a word of commendation is also due to the short articles and notes. There is no trace of scamped work here ; and specially to be mentioned are the very useful notes (by the Editor) on words, rare or obsolete, that occur in the Authorized Version of the Bible. These notes serve the purpose of an elaborate glossary.

We may now pass on briefly to consider the third, and penultimate, volume of "Encyclopædia Biblica." And because it is pleasanter to praise than to censure, we may fitly begin by expressing our admiration of the mechanical methods adopted by the editors and printers to render this book a model work of reference. There is no work with which we are acquainted that is so perfect typographically ; every device that could be thought of to economize space and the reader's time, as well as to secure ease of comfort in consultation, has been adopted. The maps, too, are a noteworthy feature ; and in this respect "Encyclopædia Biblica" is far ahead of its rival, Hastings' "Dictionary of the Bible." The pagination is not by volumes, but—in view of the fact that

the work is to be printed on thin as well as on thick paper, in order that it may be bound up in a single volume—the numbering is continuous and by columns. Thus vol. iii. (L-P) extends from col. 2689 to col. 3988.

The band of contributors to "Encyclopædia Biblica" is smaller in number than the contributors to Hastings' "Dictionary." In the case of vol. iii. there are sixty names registered; of these, twenty-three are those of Continental scholars. Canon Cheyne is the most voluminous of the writers, being responsible for no less than twenty-one major articles; next to him comes the late Professor Robertson Smith, who contributes ten; and after him Dr. Benzinger and Mr. S. A. Cook, who contribute eight articles apiece. Taken as a whole, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the work is less a Dictionary of the Bible than a Dictionary of the Higher Criticism of the Bible—a widely different thing. It is not, we think, creditable that a man of Professor Cheyne's peculiar standing (he is an ordained minister of the Church of England, as well as a Divinity Professor at Oxford) should deem it consistent with his ordination vows to foist a work like "Encyclopædia Biblica" upon the English public, as though it were a trustworthy storehouse of ascertainable and verifiable information. The most casual inspection of the book will instantly reveal the bias which has guided the editors in their choice of contributors. Schmidt (of Zürich) has reduced the Gospel narrative to the merest congeries of unauthenticated stories, strung together in the interests of a religious preconception, leaving us with some half-dozen or so "authentic" sayings of Jesus Christ as the final result of the latest criticism of the words of "Him who spake as never man spake." In the present volume Professor W. van Manen, setting aside not merely the tradition of nearly twenty centuries, but the judgment of some of the best scholars of this generation, has thought fit to deny the Pauline authorship of *any* of the Epistles usually attributed to St. Paul; Professor Cheyne, in his article "Psalms," goes so far as to deny the Davidic authorship of a single hymn in the Psalter, apparently denies the historicity of Moses (he speaks of him as "*to some extent* an historical personage," whatever that may precisely mean), scouts the idea that any such thing as the plagues of Egypt ever took place, and adopts a number of highly questionable positions that bid fair to become antiquated within a decade. Now, we would ask (in no carping spirit, however), Is this sort of thing fair? Theological students have surely a right to expect in a Bible Dictionary, not the latest theory or the newest hypothesis on the facts of religious history (these theories may be left to adorn the pages of "advanced" magazines), but a well-ordered and well-digested mass of evidence; of fact untempered with fancy; of sound opinion, not of uncertain theorizings. But "Encyclopædia Biblica" is, in the main, rather in the nature of a vast collection of "tendenz-schriften" than a sober digest of what is known in the realm of Biblical study.

However, it is only fair to add that there are a number of purely historical and geographical articles scattered through this work that are of high value. To select a few, almost at random, one may name Professor

Meyer's "Phoenicia," Mr. H. W. W. Pearson on the "Flora of Palestine," Professor Tiele's article on "Persia," and several articles by the Rev. C. H. W. Johns, of Queen's College, Cambridge, on such subjects as Nineveh and Nebuchadnezzar. Indeed, the Assyriological and Egyptological articles in "Encyclopædia Biblica" are generally of the utmost importance and interest. One notices the severely scientific method of handling the various subjects throughout the work; very rarely is a writer betrayed into enthusiasm or rhetoric.

It is somewhat surprising to find Canon J. Armitage Robinson's name figuring in the contributors' list; he writes on "Presbyter" and "Prophet" (New Testament). In connection with the latter subject, the careful reader is referred to the entire article "Prophetic Literature," of which Canon Robinson's contribution forms a subsection. This article—a composite performance, signed with the well-known initials T.K.C. and W.R.S.—is characteristic in many directions of the work of the authors of "Encyclopædia Biblica" as a whole, their great but often misapplied learning, their exuberant love of conjecture and hypothesis combined with careful antagonism to "traditional" views, their immense research, and their thinly disguised Rationalism.

E. H. B.

