

Notices of Books.

THE ESCHATOLOGICAL QUESTION IN THE GOSPELS. By Rev. C. W. Emmet, M.A. Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 6s. net.

Mr. Emmet is a writer over whom the plain man may well rejoice. He takes difficult and intricate problems of present-day criticism, and presents them in language which all can understand. Many of these chapters have appeared before, but it is well that they have been collected and published. Many a hardworking clergyman, many an intelligent layman, desires to know something of the problems of which he hears; he has little time, and perhaps scarcely the trained skill, to work through the large and difficult writings of Schweitzer, Harnack, Tyrrell, Loisy, or even of our own Dr. Sanday, and he longs for help. Here is exactly the help he needs. Mr. Emmet's earlier papers deal with the problem—not, indeed, a new one—which Professor Burkitt has made prominent in England and Schweitzer on the Continent: Did our Lord expect a coming of the kingdom, immediate and complete, in His own earthly lifetime, and was He accordingly mistaken? This is one of the books that our readers should get and read, so we do not propose to follow the argument. It is full and cogent; it shirks no difficulties; and it finds space for the consideration of the practical question as to our Lord's moral teaching. The new school suggests that our Lord taught an idealistic morality because He only looked upon it as temporary; it was an "Interimsethik," and as such could afford to be extravagant. Mr. Emmet shows that the eschatological school are compelled to admit, in the words of Johannes Weiss, that our Lord sometimes "seeks to inform and help the world, as though it were destined to continue."

To Eschatology the largest space is given, but the other chapters are equally clear and informative. He discusses the Abbé Loisy's view of the Gospel story, and most valuably criticizes it: he writes a clear essay on Harnack's view of the second source of St. Matthew and St. Luke, the so-called Q; he states and rejects the theory that the Magnificat is ascribed by St. Luke to Elizabeth, and incidentally defends the authenticity of the canticles of the early chapters of St. Luke. He defends Zahn's view that Galatians was the earliest of the Pauline Epistles, makes St. Paul's visit to Jerusalem in Acts xi. coincide with the visit of Galatians, and inclines to accept the "Western" reading of the decree of the Council of Jerusalem, which omits the words "from things strangled," making the decree refer no longer to matters of ceremonial, but to matters of morals, idolatry, murder, fornication.

Altogether the book is a most valuable and suggestive one, and we warmly commend it to our readers as worthy of a place on their shelves.

THE ASCENDED CHRIST. By Henry Barclay Swete, D.D. London: *Macmillan and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

Ascensiontide has been frequently a neglected festival, and the lessons of our Lord's ascended life are often too little appreciated. Dr. Swete's little book will help us to a better understanding. It is an attempt to expound the doctrine of the Ascension and the Ascended Life of our Lord. To Dr. Swete

all the references in Scripture to the session of our Lord have their ultimate origin in Psalm 110. Arguing from this, he contends that the session of our Lord in glory does not imply rest, but rather an agelong conflict with the powers of evil. Probably we might combine both ideas. The session implied that the work for which Christ came to earth was ended; it did not imply that all His work was ended. Professor Swete tells us much of that heavenly work when Christ, as King, Priest, Prophet, Mediator, Intercessor, Advocate, Forerunner, sat down with His Father in His throne. All these chapters are full of helpful suggestiveness. Then there follows a chapter on the "Presence in the Midst." Dr. Swete quite rightly says that two or three Christians met for Common Prayer may claim the promise of His presence. He insists that we may especially expect that presence in the Holy Communion, and that where Christ is present, though His presence is not corporal, He is to be adored. He adds: "No adoration, of course, is intended or ought to be done to the symbols—it is not the symbolic figure of the Lamb that all heaven worships—nor to any corporal or localized presence whatsoever." Dr. Swete is quite clear that "neither in heaven nor on earth can there be any repetition of the Sacrifice." He is quite clear, also, as to the priesthood of the laity. "We come to God through Him, not merely as suppliants or worshippers, but as priests. But there are some few things in the book which do not seem quite so true to Scripture. For instance, on p. 43, Dr. Swete speaks of our Lord's presence in heaven as "a perpetual and effective presentation before God of the Sacrifice once offered," and we respectfully venture to ask where is the Scriptural warrant for this. We are moved to ask it the more because the phrase, or something like it, occurs more than once. Again, he writes on p. 47: "There can be no reasonable doubt that the Eucharist stands in a very special relation both to the Sacrifice of the Death of Christ and to His priestly Self-presentation in Heaven." He speaks quite truly of the double aspect of the Sacrament as an act both of Communion and of Commemoration. But he calls the Commemoration the Church's counterpart on earth to the Self-presentation of our Lord in heaven. In a footnote he admits that *ἀνάμνησις* is not the usual nor liturgical word for memorial, and that it must not be pressed in that sense. On the next page he uses the passage in Heb. xiii. 10 as having a reference to Holy Communion. We regret that Dr. Swete should have given the weight of his influence to views which Dr. Westcott has so effectively traversed. We are very reluctant to criticize one to whom the study of the New Testament owes so much, but in the interests of truth it is necessary to ask that teaching of this kind be shown to be Scriptural before we can accept it.

F. S. G. W.

THE GREAT TEXTS OF THE BIBLE: ST. MARK. Edited by Rev. James Hastings, D.D. Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price, general, 10s.; to subscribers 6s. net.

We have already warmly commended the first volume of this series, that on Isaiah. We can equally warmly commend this. The book is not a collection of sermons, neither is it a collection of skeletons for the preacher to clothe with flesh and blood; it is rather flesh and blood for which the preacher must find a skeleton, if it is to help him to make a sermon. But

we would warn him that as a living organism is not a thoughtless throwing together of bones, flesh, and blood, so, if he attempts to use this book as a substitute for thought, he will make bad sermons. To the preacher who really tries to prepare his sermons the expositions and illustrations of this book will be of the utmost value. Let none others buy it.

THE PROGRESS OF REVELATION. By the Rev. G. A. Cooke, D.D. Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 4s. 6d. net.

THE SERVANT OF GOD. By W. B. Selbie. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 6s.

THE LOVE AND WISDOM OF GOD. By Edward King, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 5s. net.

We have here three interesting volumes of sermons, widely differing each from the other, but all equally worthy of publication. Professor Cooke's is one of the "Scholar as Preacher" series, and deals largely with the Old Testament. Professor Cooke is a higher critic, perhaps some would think an extreme higher critic, but his sermons are marked by a real reverence for the Bible, and by a strong spiritual tone. They are scholarly, as we could expect, but they deal with practical Christian life in a way which cannot but help those who read them.

Principal Selbie's volume is also the work of a scholar, but his sermons are much more doctrinal than critical. He too deals largely with the Old Testament, but the Atonement through Christ is the real centre of his message. He writes very wisely along the line that the fact of the Atonement is one, but the theories of the Atonement are many. In the main he accepts the position of Dr. Dale, but he does not forget all that has been written since. One passage puts the general position so well that it deserves to be quoted in full:

"A man is no more saved by his theory of salvation than he can feed his body with a treatise on health. In the New Testament we have the fact of the Atonement stated, and but little more. But the statement is so wide, so many-sided, so richly illustrated, that on the basis of the New Testament alone various and even contradictory theories of the Atonement have been built up. The mandate of the New Testament to the preacher is to preach that Christ died for the ungodly, and to the Christian to receive that message, and with it pardon and peace. But to the natural man the message is a mystery and a stumbling block, and so the effort has been made to explain it, to make clear to the intelligence what appeals rather to the heart—to give a theory of the Atonement."

For the third volume—namely, that by the late Bishop of Lincoln, we owe a real debt to the Rev. H. T. Morgan, now also gone to his rest, and to Canon Randolph. The sermons cover a large portion of the Bishop's life, and were delivered under a great variety of circumstances. They have much to teach us who are also preachers. They are marked by indications of wide reading; they are illustrated with remarkable resource and versatility; above all, they bring us into an atmosphere of truly spiritual religion. No one will read them, not even those who differed most from Bishop King, without understanding something of the reason why he exerted so great an influence, and commanded such universal affection.

These three volumes form a valuable contribution to our stock of sermon literature.

F. S. G. W.

THE RIGHT TO BELIEVE. By Eleanor Harris Rowland, Ph.D. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This book is written by the instructor in philosophy and psychology in Mount Holyoke College, U.S.A., and is the outcome of the author's efforts to deal with the religious difficulties of those whom she is instructing in kindred subjects. Her method of dealing with the problems of those who are anxious to believe is both original and suggestive.

There are six chapters, in addition to the Introduction, covering such subjects as "The Necessity for a Belief"; "Does God Exist?"; "The Nature of God and Man"; "The Divinity of Christ"; "The Problem of Evil," and "Prayer."

The writer's studies in philosophy and psychology are brought to bear upon these great questions, and oftentimes alternatives are presented in a most striking and convincing way.

Nothing is taken for granted. Arguments in favour of religion are stated hypothetically. The logical man who refuses to accept them because they are not supported by facts must also refuse to accept the contrary arguments if the facts are likewise wanting. A third possibility is excluded, according to Aristotle's "Law of excluded middle."

Pursuing this line of reasoning, the writer often presents in forcible fashion the overwhelming difficulties of unbelief. This little work forms a most excellent apologetic, and one which we heartily commend to those who are called upon to deal with honest seekers after truth.

Received: BIBLE AND CHURCH LINKS. By C. M. Parks. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 1s. 6d. A large collection of information about the Bible and the Church—some valuable and some wholly unnecessary. THE REVISED VERSION OF THE HOLY BIBLE DIVIDED INTO VERSES. *Cambridge Press*. Prices various. An edition which many of us have desired for a long while. The familiar paragraphs of the Revised Version are broken up into verses. It will do more to popularize the Revised Version than any edition yet. THE CORONATION PRAYER-BOOK. Oxford: *University Press*. A beautiful edition in white buckram and other bindings, with photographs of the King and Queen, an illuminated title-page, and delightful printing. It is dedicated by permission to the King, and contains the Coronation Service itself. THE HEBREW PROPHETS. By Woods and Powell. Oxford: At the *Clarendon Press*. Price 2s. 6d. The third volume of this edition of the Prophets, containing Obadiah, Ezekiel, and the latter half of Isaiah. The earlier volumes have already won for this edition a high place among the many attempts to make the Prophets intelligible to young students. THE LIFE STORY OF QUEEN MARY. By J. R. Brewer. London: *R.T.S.* Price 2s. 6d. A wonderfully cheap, well-illustrated story of the Queen's life, in simple style and large print. An excellent gift-book. THE LORD'S PRAYER. By J. E. Field. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 1s. 6d. An interesting account of the history and liturgical use of the Lord's Prayer. THOUGHTS ON GETHSEMANE. By L. M. Warner. London: *Morgan and Scott*. Price 3d. Many have already read Miss Warner's poems, and we gladly commend them to many more. They are simple and spiritual, and breathe the spirit of the Gospel. THE REVELATION OF THE TRIUNE GOD. By Rev. Bernard Herklots. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 1s. 6d. net. Mr. Herklots' poem has reached a new edition, as, indeed, it deserved to. BRITISH JOURNAL OF INEBRIETY. Edited by T. N. Kelynack, M.D. London: *Baillière, Tindall, and Cox*. Price 1s. net. A journal devoted to the scientific study of the problems of strong drink. THE CHURCH QUARTERLY REVIEW. Edited by Rev. A. C. Headlam. London: *Spottiswoode and Co.* Subscription price 12s. per annum. The most attractive articles are those by Canon Beeching on "The English Bible," and Dr. Burn on "Cardinal Pole." MULTITUDE AND SOLITUDE. By John Masefield. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 7d. net. THE LONDON POLICE COURTS. By Thomas Holmes. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 1s. net. THE AMATEUR POACHER. By R. Jefferies. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 1s. THE GIFT. By S. Macnaughtan. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 7d. net. SELECTIONS FROM EDMUND BURKE. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 6d. A PLAIN MAN'S THOUGHTS ON BIBLICAL CRITICISM. By Eugene Stock. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 3d. net. GUIDING THOUGHTS. By Dr. Moule. London: *Marshall Brothers*.