

BRIEF NOTICES.

THE SECRET OF POWER AND OTHER SERMONS. By *Alexander Mac-laren, D.D.* (London: Macmillans.) Dr. Maclaren is one of the finest, if not the finest, preacher of the day. Of a striking presence, with a clear telling voice capable of the most pathetic inflections, even his slight and pleasant Scotch brogue giving an added effect to his words, and speaking with a quiet and controlled intensity which commands an instant and deep attention, his sermons, admirable in themselves, gain immensely from his delivery of them. So much the more do they lose when the living voice is not heard, when speech and presence no longer utter their quickening commentary and lay their weighty emphasis on his words. No volume that can be printed will ever convey the man, or account to those who have not heard him for the profound impression he has left on those who, like the present writer, have heard him at intervals, on private and on public occasions, for many years.

His eminence as a preacher, however, his pre-eminence even is admitted on all hands, and by all classes of men, from the Bishop of Manchester and the leaders of the Nonconformist denominations, who have again and again invited him to preach to them on their most solemn festivals, down to the humblest and least cultivated Christian souls that have hung on his accents with instruction and delight. To as many as can recall his manner and tones the sermons collected in this volume, many of which were delivered on special occasions, will be most welcome, and will call up grateful memories which may have slept for years. And even to those who have never heard him the sermons will be welcome both because, for mere intellectual power, they are among the most brilliant of the purely orthodox school, and because of the noble undertone of spiritual emotion and aspiration by which they are pervaded. Sermons of as great intellectual force it would not be difficult to find, nor sermons which appeal as strongly to the "spiritual man" within us. But the combination of these qualities is rare, and both are to be found in these discourses, and, with them, some traces of that strange intensity of purpose and aim on which we have already remarked as a special characteristic of the preacher.

We have only to add that these choice sermons deserved a somewhat more liberal treatment from their publisher. They are carelessly printed, on an unattractive looking paper, with mean margins, although even this is an advance on the last volume of sermons by Dr. Maclaren which we received from the same hands.