

BRIEF NOTICES.

THE LIFE-EDUCATION AND WIDER CULTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY, by *J. S. Wilson, M.A.* (Edinburgh: Blackwoods). There can be no doubt that in the critical period which ensues after men have left their College or University, to commence their ministry as pastors and teachers of the Word, they sadly need some definite guidance in the studies which they ought to pursue and the aims which it behoves them to set before them. And, at first, we hoped that Mr. Wilson, who recognizes and deplures the lack of any work which supplies that guidance, might himself have supplied the lack which he has been keen enough to detect. But as he contents himself with mere generalities, and simply recommends young ministers to acquaint themselves with the whole round of literature ancient and modern, home and foreign, sacred, classical, and scientific, and to study the work and history of the Church in their own parish, their own district, their own denomination, and in all other denominations at home and abroad, we doubt whether they can hope to find in these Lectures the definite guidance they need, however carefully they may seek it. We regret that no other conclusion is possible to us; for Mr. Wilson evidently has a deep sense of the need he attempts to meet, and would gladly supply it if he could. He writes a good style too, and shews many traits of reading and refinement; but he has a terrible gift of amplification. All that he has to say might have been packed into a tenth of its present compass; and even then we fear that, for lack of definiteness, it would have been of little value to the specific class to which he addresses himself. He has indicated a real and pressing want, however; and happy will be the man who meets it.

We are glad to observe that Rev. W. H. Lyttleton's translation of *Godel's* masterly *Studies on the Old Testament* (London: Hodder and Stoughton) has passed into a second edition.

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In Mr. Watts's article, p. 240, l. 4, for LXX. read L X.