

At the Literary Table.

THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

HOW CHRIST CAME TO CHURCH. BY A. J. GORDON, D.D. (*Baptist Tract and Book Society*. Post 8vo, pp. 123.) Dr. Gordon did not believe in dreams; yet this was a veritable dream, and he tells it for instruction in righteousness. He was preaching in his own church in Boston; a stranger came in, listened to the sermon, and went away. It was Jesus of Nazareth. Dr. Gordon did not know Him till He was gone. The dream is told in a page or more. Then follows the man's own biography. There are two heights in it, the discovery of Jesus' presence now, the discovery of His coming again. And these two discoveries once made, ruled Dr. Gordon's life and ministry. How they gave him the use of himself and his best faculties, Dr. Pierson tells us in a Preface and an Appendix to this volume.

PLEA FOR A SIMPLER LIFE. BY GEORGE S. KEITH, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. (*Black*. Crown 8vo, pp. viii, 149. 2s. 6d.) It is the old exhortation, plain living and high thinking. But it is more, it shows the way to reach it. It is indeed a most earnest yet most scientific exposition of the evil we do to our bodies and souls and spirits by mixed dishes and medicines. If we would follow Dr. Keith's advice and take his prescriptions, we should have less dyspepsia and less atheism amongst us, less need for doctors of medicine and less need for doctors of divinity.

THE ENGLISH BIBLE. BY THE REV. GEORGE MILLIGAN, B.D. (*Black*. 16mo, pp. x, 137. 6d.) The first thing one looks for in a new book is its index. Alas! there is none here. And it is the greater pity that the book is manifestly a labour of love, and crammed with fertile facts as earth is crammed with heaven. This is just the book on the History of the English Bible (if it had had an index) for which we have been waiting. It is pleasantly written, it is well proportioned, it is trustworthy. How often have we been disappointed with the books that touch this subject. It is so promising, they are so flat and unprofitable. This book is like a fine sermon following a beautiful text. P.S.—Mr. Milligan spells

'Authorised' so. Is it not customary to spell it with a 'z,' and is it not correct?

THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. BY G. M. GRANT, D.D., LL.D. (*Black*. Crown 8vo, pp. xvi, 206. 1s. 6d. net.) 'The Guild Library' is to be reprinted in crown 8vo size, and this is the first volume. It is still remarkably cheap. And now it is so much more easily read, and so much more easily preserved, that the editors may count upon a large independent circulation in this form. Besides, the work has been revised, and there is now an excellent index.

THE WILD FLOWERS COLLECTING-BOOK. BY F. E. HULME, F.L.S., F.S.A. (*Cassells*. 4to. Six Parts. 6d. each.) In each Part twelve flowers are drawn and described, each flower occupying the page. The opposite page is blank: it is intended to receive the pressed specimen corresponding; and at the bottom of it there are lines to enter the date, place, and signature. No better way to make the pursuit of knowledge a pleasure has yet been discovered.

THE LUTHERAN COMMENTARY. EDITED BY H. E. JACOBS. ST. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL. PART I. BY CHARLES F. SCHAEFFER, D.D. (New York: *Christian Literature Co.* 8vo, pp. xxv, 384.) This is a new enterprise, of which the editor gives the whole credit to the publishers. But it is not possible to judge the enterprise by the volume already issued. For it was written before the purpose was formed, and on a much larger scale than the scheme proposes. If we understand the editor aright, the intention is to cover at least one book of Scripture with a single volume. Taken by itself, this volume is distinctly attractive. The information is trustworthy and well put. There is no display of learning, but it cannot be hid. Especially does Dr. Schaeffer's knowledge of what we might call the marginal references of the Bible reveal itself. Scripture is made its own illustrator with quite exceptional felicity. Then the 'reflexions' are kept in their place. They are here, but they do not occupy

every room in the house. And they are sometimes better reflexions than you could have made yourself. Lastly, the printing is large and clear, and the binding modern and serviceable. But what about the title? Well, 'Lutheran,' to guess from this volume, might just as well have been 'Christian.'

THE UNIVERSITY TUTORIAL SERIES.

SPARTA AND THEBES. BY A. H. ALLCROFT, M.A. (*Clive*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 199. 4s. 6d.) The first thing we seek in a 'Tutorial Series' is the means of passing our examinations. Other things may be added to that, as personality, originality, style; but we seek that first. Now it is not easy to make some of us pass our examinations. So here publishers, authors, examiners even, have combined and produced a series of books which have this single end in view. Their success is their approval. They have made many men and some women pass their examinations (see the attractive list here). The latest issue is before us. If, then, it is the history of Greece that we have to pass in, this is the book to buy.

IN RELIEF OF DOUBT. BY THE REV. R. E. WELSH, M.A. (*Clarke*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 330.) Here is a little book, so beautifully bound that you would buy it if you saw it, though it were written in Dutch. It is really written in pure and quivering English, however, and it would be bought if it were not bound at all. 'In relief of doubt'—it is a small book, but it is big enough for that. There is no way of winning the doubter but the way men win elections, by house-to-house visitation. Doubters who have 'the art of doubting well' (which is the title of Mr. Welsh's first chapter) doubt one thing only. They doubt if a good God could permit misery in the world, or they doubt if a book is inspired which spells Nebuchadrezzar's name with an *n*. You cannot meet the doubts of both at once, you must take them separately and alone. But Mr. Welsh is better than half the books that are written in relief of doubt; he has definite doubters before him. One he meets in one chapter, the other in another. And if the right doubter could be led to read the chapter that is written for him, he would find something to his advantage. For Mr. Welsh meets doubts squarely, as the Americans say.

THE OLD MISSIONARY. BY SIR W. W. HUNTER, K.C.S.I., M.A., I.L.D. (*Frowde*. Small 4to, pp. 138.) This is one of the most effective arguments for Foreign Missions ever written. It is also one of the most beautiful stories. The style is so charming, there is so sweet an atmosphere of Christianity and common sense. Read it. Begin, and you will certainly go on. Go on, and you will certainly be sorry when it is ended.

THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST. BY JOSEPH AGAR BEET, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv, 347. 7s. 6d.) Dr. Beet's books have nothing to commend them but their worth. No mysterious paragraphs prepare their way. No conspiracy of friends sets out to cry in all the papers that they've come, they've come. They are even perfectly orthodox, and go by common names. They have nothing but their worth to commend them, and yet they find an unfailing audience. It is one of the best signs we have in theology or in literature.

The new book is independent, if you like; but it is best understood as the follower of *Through Christ to God*. It takes up the History of Redemption—the History of the Redemption of a human soul—where that book left it off. Its theme is its title—the New Life in Christ.

It is perhaps the first time that the salvation of a human soul has been treated scientifically. Salvation and soteriology have often been dealt with so. But there was lacking always the personal application. The way in which the human soul might, could, would, or should be saved has often been set forth. But here we are in the indicative mood and the present tense. In medical phrase, we are not listening to a lecture on physiology, we are undergoing treatment.

And the treatment is large enough to touch us all. Lydia and the jailer did not come to Christ alike: nor did they live alike their new life in Christ. Dr. Beet remembers that science is not made out of a single instance. Once or twice we doubt if his generalisation is just as wide as it ought to be. On that matter of the liberty of the will, for example. Is it true that salvation is of Arminius and not at all of Calvin? Is it not truer that salvation is of Paul who gathered Calvin and Arminius into his epistle together, as Sanday and Headlam have so irresistibly shown us (see the new *Romans* in the 'International Critical

Commentary')? But that is an incident, not the book. The book itself is our first sound and scientific account of how a human soul is saved.

TALES OF THE WARRIOR KING. BY J. R. MACDUFF, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv, 356. 6s.) This is the last and apparently the greatest (not the biggest merely) of Dr. Macduff's innumerable writings. Its subject is admirably suited to the gifts he had. And although as a biography of David this book will not be sought by the critic or commentator, it serves its own purpose well. The publishers have been most loyal to the old man's memory. No other book of his had ever so much pains and money expended on it.

THE CHILD JESUS. BY ALEXANDER MACLEOD, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 270. 3s. 6d.) It takes a great man to preach to children, but Dr. Macleod was great enough even for that. His previous volumes of Children's Sermons have been so well received that the publishers have been encouraged to gather this one out of the *Sunday Magazine* and elsewhere, and it will be well received also. There is just one objection. They have bound it in a creamy cloth, and this copy at least had never a chance to be loved, for when it was taken out of the parcel it was found to be dirty and distasteful.

THE TEACHING OF JESUS. BY ROBERT F. HORTON. (*Isbister*. Crown 8vo, pp. viii, 287. 3s. 6d.) Dr. Horton's books have never been so attractive as his person, but this comes nearer than any of them. It is indeed so attractive that those who have not seen or heard Dr. Horton will doubt if he can be more attractive in himself. It is a great subject, and a new subject, presented with great ability and charm. The foundation is Wendt and Beyschlag. Dr. Horton tells us frankly that his lectures are based on Wendt's *Teaching of Jesus* and Beyschlag's *New Testament Theology*, with an effort to supply that which is found lacking in them. For Dr. Horton owes more than he can express to these great books of recent publication, and 'I felt it my duty,' he says, 'to give to my own Church the main results of these two invaluable books.' And now our recom-

mendation is, that if anyone has yet to read these books, he should read Dr. Horton's first.

LAWS AND LANDMARKS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE. BY WILLIAM A. GRAY. (*Kelly*. Crown 8vo, pp. 258. 3s. 6d.) It is not to be supposed that the editor of the 'Life Indeed' Series of sermons, limiting it to six volumes could not find six men in his own Church capable of writing them. He must have discovered something exceptional in Mr. Gray, when he went outside his own Church and gave him this invitation. No doubt he discovered it in the volume entitled *The Shadow of the Hand*. For though that volume may not have had a greater circulation than sermons usually have, there are a few persons who have found out its singular virtue. Now the present volume is not like *The Shadow of the Hand*. Coming from the same author, it differs even surprisingly. But in its way it is quite as unique as that. Its way, besides, is less familiar. There is a literary flavour here, a mental separateness, which is not found in volumes of sermons, or found only in the very highest. Whether you are a hearer or a preacher, it is almost certain that they will be to you as the opening up of a new country. And yet the country is the old Bible and the Christian life. For Mr. Gray is either strictly expository, or else he is strictly experimental. There is a story one hears in Scotland of a church member who came in late and asked his neighbour what the preacher's 'grun' was, by which he meant his text. The answer was, 'He's no gotten grun' yet, he's soomin'.' This is what one may fear at first is to be laid to Mr. Gray's charge. But one sermon, well read, dispels the fear. Unfamiliar as the footing is, it is solid land we tread on. We may not have gone this way before; we only are the more impressed that the Bible and the Christian life have still so much to give us.

THE EPISTLES OF PAUL THE APOSTLE. BY G. G. FINDLAY, B.A. (*Kelly*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. x, 305. 2s. 6d.) Mr. Gregory's 'Books for Bible Students' are finding the acceptance they deserve. This is the fifth thousand of Professor Findlay's volume. It is improved in many ways. But the greatest improvement is the addition of an excellent index. The first edition actually had not an index at all.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MIDDLE AGES. BY THE LATE R. W. CHURCH, D.C.L. (*Macmillans*. Globe 8vo, pp. xxii, 269. 5s.) 'This volume is printed in the Eversley Series by the kind permission of Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co., to whom the copyright belongs.' So the publishers inform us. And it is a fine thing to see these two great houses so amicably disposed, as it is a fine thing to be able to add this volume to the rest of Dean Church's works in this inimitably beautiful form. Now Messrs. Macmillan must go further. We want the Sermons in this Series yet, and then we shall rest content.

The book itself needs not an introduction. It is Dean Church; and if that is not enough, it is Dean Church at his best. He had just the training and just the mind to manage the Middle Ages. And what he touched, though it were the driest bones of the dry, awoke always into instant life.

PROLEGOMENA TO ST. PAUL'S EPISTLES TO THE ROMANS AND THE EPHESIANS. BY THE LATE F. J. A. HORT, D.D., D.C.L., LL.D. (*Macmillans*. Crown 8vo, pp. 192. 6s.) This is now the third volume which the editor has given us of Dr. Hort's posthumous works, and there are more to follow. One wonders what circulation they have. For they are not as the books that run into their tens of thousands. If Dr. Hort had been a preacher, he would have had to preach in some large city, and gather his audience out of the mass; no ordinary congregation would have even understood his meaning. Yet this is pure gold. For the old proverb, 'All that glitters is not gold,' is surely a foolish one. 'Nothing that glitters is pure gold,' is the truer word.

The Lectures on the Romans seem the most popular; but the Lectures on the Ephesians are the most important. Here many questions are raised, and though few, if any, of them are here settled, they open fine avenues to the student's thoughtfulness. It is not the business of a lecturer to settle things; rather is it his business to unsettle them, if you like (and some are admirably fitted for it). But Dr. Hort unsettles no saving truths. Only he raises questions as to the surroundings and circumstances of the truths of the gospel, so that by encouraging us to search and see, we may have the central truths made more reliable and made our own.

MYRTLE STREET PULPIT. SERMONS. BY THE REV. JOHN THOMAS, M.A. (*Liverpool Nicol*. 8vo, pp. 284. 3s. 6d.) This is the fourth volume. It is not a whit more attractive without, nor a whit less attractive within, than its predecessors. It used to be said that only the narrow creed works conviction, as only the sharp sword pierces. Mr. Thomas's creed is not narrow, yet will his earnestness pierce the hardest heart. His words are sent forth as they come to him, without selection or refinement; and in some things they may offend. But they have life in them,—vigorous life and courage and inspiration,—one of the perfect gifts that come down from above.

FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY. BY W. GARDEN BLAIKIE, D.D., LL.D. (*Nisbet*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv, 304. 5s.) Dr. Blaikie's book about preaching is probably more widely known than any recent book on its subject. This is the sixth edition. It is revised, and it is also enriched with an enlarged bibliography, for much of which Dr. Blaikie acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr. Salmond. This will make the book of yet more practical value, and just that is Dr. Blaikie's first and last desire.

BIBLICAL CHARACTER SKETCHES. (*Nisbet*. Crown 8vo, pp. 207. 3s. 6d.) Thirteen 'Young Men of the Bible,' and seven 'Young Women of the Bible,' are here sketched for young men and women of to-day by Dean Farrar, and others. The sketches are sketchy, but that is better than if they had been dismal. They are bright and pointed, every one, and the lessons they suggest are as naturally derived from the Bible narratives as they are directly and fervently enforced.

ASPIRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT. BY FREDERICK A. ATKINS. (*Nisbet*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 90. 1s.) Mr. Atkins has made a special study of the young man. And the more he writes about him, the more he finds to write. It is always so, when the subject is a really great one. This little book is as fresh as though its author had just arrived at an undiscovered country. Put it into the young man's hands—put it into the young man's boxes along with his Bible:

THREE FISHING BOATS. BY THE REV. J. C. LAMBERT, B.D. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. xii, 186. 1s. 6d.) This is the latest issue of the 'Golden Nails' Series. Now the 'Golden Nails' Series comes very near the ideal, which we all have but cannot attain to, of what children's sermons ought to be—nearer than anything else we know. If the publishers will persist in rejecting all the inferior things that are offered them, and give us only the like of this, they will deserve to be called *the publishers of sermons to children*.

THE BONNIE JEAN. BY ANNIE S. SWAN. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. 128. 1s. 6d.) Here are three stories, pure and true and good. They are also as beautifully written as they are pure and good. For Annie S. Swan has a touch that every heart responds to when she handles themes like these.

TALES OF THE COVENANTERS. BY ROBERT POLLOK, M.A. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. 317. 3s. 6d.) If Pollok's *Tales* had been adorned as this when we were boys, more of us would have read them. The name had always something hopeful in it, but the binding was always hopeless. This does not seem the same book. Dressed in beautiful pale blue cloth of most modern texture, and illustrated by a living life-giving artist, this does not seem Pollok's *Tales* at all. Now they will read them who missed them in their youth, and they who are still in their youth will never dream of missing them.

THE TREASURY OF DAVID. PART I. BY C. H. SPURGEON. (*Passmore & Alabaster*. 8vo, pp. 64. 1s.) Mr. Spurgeon's publishers have thus begun the issue of the *Treasury* in shilling monthly (?) parts. It is a wise proceeding, both financially and philanthropically.

THE SOUL-WINNER. BY C. H. SPURGEON. (*Passmore & Alabaster*. Crown 8vo, pp. 343.) There is no abatement in the issue of Spurgeon literature, there is no abatement in its interest. This volume is made up of many parts. First, there are six college lectures, next four addresses to Sunday-school teachers or the like, and then five sermons preached from the Tabernacle pulpit.

The theme of one and all is the work of winning a soul to God. Not the philosophy of it, for Spurgeon did not trouble with philosophy: it is the work itself.

TWELVE SERMONS FOR SEEKERS. BY C. H. SPURGEON. (*Passmore & Alabaster*. 8vo. 1s.) The seeker is much remembered in the Word of God, and he is not forgotten in the true preacher's sermons. Certainly, Spurgeon never forgot him. Sometimes he took him apart from all the congregation and preached to him alone. Here are twelve of these sermons. Let the seeker seek them and be saved.

HEROES OF THE NATIONS. JULIAN. BY ALICE GARDNER. (*Putnam*. Crown 8vo, pp. xx, 364. 5s.) This is without doubt the best popular history of Julian we possess. It is well written in all respects, and well furnished forth. There is no special pleading either against Julian, or, what is more common now, for him. The man is made human and credible, and that was not easy to do. It was easier to make it an interesting story, that perhaps was inevitable, but it is quite fascinating here. Then the illustrations are new and artistic, besides being numerous. Yes, the best popular Julian we have yet.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON. BY W. WILLIAMS. (*R.T.S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 288. 5s.) There is no abatement of interest in Mr. Spurgeon. This would be no surprise if he had been a great writer. But there has been no example in recent times of a man, whose sole greatness was his personality, retaining his influence so unshaken, and exerting a widening and deepening interest as the years pass. Have we had any example like it since Dr. Johnson? And Johnson owed it to his biographer, whereas Mr. Spurgeon has had no biographer yet, and it does not appear that he ever will find one.

Mr. Williams' book is not a biography. It is a contribution towards that. It is a contribution of the greatest value, and in itself quite as interesting as the best biography could ever be. It is a friend's very affectionate recollections. And inasmuch as Mr. Williams, because of his affection, was admitted to the closest friendship, it reveals Mr. Spurgeon when he had least thought of

posterity, and so was most himself. The book is full of matter. The chapter entitled 'Table Talk' could have been spun into a book itself, and it might have taken its place above Goethe's and beside Luther's. The letters are less brilliant, for Mr. Spurgeon was not so great as a writer. But we could have read more of them without weariness. Altogether, with its reserve and revelation, and considering the beauty of its illustrations, it is perhaps the most notable book yet written on Mr. Spurgeon.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS OF NEW ENGLAND AND THEIR PURITAN SUCCESSORS. BY JOHN BROWN, B.A., D.D. (*R.T.S.* Post 8vo, pp. 368. 10s. 6d.) The famous man is the man who does one thing, and does it well. 'To do two things' is not necessary. But Dr. Brown, who already wrote the *Life of Bunyan*, and wrote it once for all, gaining much fame thereby, has undertaken to do a greater thing than that. And although his *History of the Pilgrim Fathers* will not take the place of all other histories, although its author will still be known as the biographer of Bunyan, yet it is so well done, so conscientious and clear-sighted as literary work, that if Bunyan's *Life* had not been written before it, this new book would have certainly made Dr. Brown known to his contemporaries. It is in reality a nobler work than the *Life of Bunyan*, because it is more needful. We are not so greatly enriched by knowing accurately the circumstances of him who wrote the *Pilgrim's Progress*. It is by knowing the *Pilgrim's Progress* which he wrote that we are enriched. But he who makes the Pilgrim Fathers and their Puritan Successors credible to us and lovable, enriches us indeed. And Dr. Brown does that. He even gives us glimpses of the vast debt we owe to them. In many things we offend all, but surely this is one of our deepest offences that we should to-day deny that we owe them anything.

A VISIT TO BASHAN AND ARGOB. BY MAJOR ALGERNON HEBER-PERCY. (*R.T.S.* Small 4to, pp. 175. 7s. 6d.) 'The writer of the following pages,' says Canon Tristram, introducing the book, 'describes a dash made by himself, accompanied by his wife and sons, from Damascus to Bosra and Salcah and back.' Others have made such a dash before him, and never come

back. And Major Heber-Percy ran much risk of his life. For the Bedouin are there still, and still very much the bloodthirsty Bedouin who murdered Seetzen and Burckhardt. But he came back. And he brought great spoil with him. Chiefly he brought many excellent photographs, which are here artistically reproduced, making the book a valuable gift-book at such a season as this. This is its archæological value also. For Major Heber-Percy does not tell us much about Bashan that Porter had not told us already, but his numerous and beautiful photographs actually reveal Bashan to us far more than all Dr. Porter's writing.

EDGES AND WEDGES. BY ARCHIBALD N. MACKRAY, M.A. (*R.T.S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 160. 1s. 6d.) It is the most difficult thing in the world to preach to children. Mr. Mackray cannot do it. He just misses too, which is the more disappointing. He is bright and modern and objective, and yet he misses it. Perhaps it is the mixing that he cannot do. For a handful of fruit and a spoonful of flour and a cupful of milk are not a pudding, though they make one.

THE PLANTS OF THE BIBLE. BY THE REV. G. HENSLOW. (*R.T.S.* Fcap. 8vo, pp. 128. 1s.) This is the latest issue of the 'Present Day Primers.' The same subject is found handled in the 'By-paths' Series of the same publishers, so that it seems probable that the two series will run side by side, the younger being shorter and cheaper. Mr. Henslow has gone to good authorities (though it is curious that he does not mention Dr. Post of Beirut, the greatest living authority on the plants of the Bible), and he writes in a pleasant, easy style. The seven full-page illustrations are from photographs of objects, some of which are in Mr. Henslow's own collection.

THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE. BY SIR RAWSON W. RAWSON, K.C.M.G., C.B. (*S.P.C.K.* Fcap. 8vo, pp. xxxv, 346.) This is a new edition of a well-known book. It is not a Harmony as we are wont to use the word. The narratives from the different evangelists are not set down side by side, but woven into a continuous story. It is, therefore, a genuine Diatessaron. Then the variations of the Revised Version are given on the opposite page with sundry notes and references.

And after all is told, there comes a most useful epitome of the events, places, dates, and other matters in the Gospels.

PAULINE THEOLOGY. By H. L. HASTINGS. (*Stock*. Crown 8vo, pp. 96. 1s.) It is a singular thing that Conditional Immortality has made so little progress amongst us compared with Universalism. It has certainly far more to say for itself, both biblically and philosophically. This little book is in favour of Conditional Immortality. Its author is quite well and favourably known as the author of many anti-infidel writings, and the editor of the *Christian* of America.

REVELATION AND THE BIBLE. By R. F. HORTON, M.A. (*Unwin*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv, 412. 3s. 6d.) A new edition of Dr. Horton's book is no surprise. For it is an honest and earnest attempt to answer the questions that thousands of thinking persons are asking. That it is not a final answer to these questions would not hinder its circulation, and need not hinder our appreciation. Dr. Horton does not claim that it is. He knows and says that it is not. His complaint, therefore, that some have come to curse it, is reasonable. No doubt it is always

dangerous to suggest difficulties, and half our religious difficulties are suggested by others, not discovered of ourselves. But a man must write for those he knows, and Dr. Horton is surrounded by men who feel these difficulties keenly. He has helped these men. There is no record that he has hindered any. Let us therefore, as he properly suggests to us, either go and do better, or leave him alone to do his best. Dr. Horton's book is not final, but it is a stepping-stone to higher things. He himself will reach them yet, and give us something final.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND. THIRTY YEARS' WORK IN THE HOLY LAND. (*Watt*. Crown 8vo, pp. 256. 3s. 6d.) This is the third edition of the book. Each edition adds some years' work and several pages to the volume. Now it is the easiest introduction to the great subject of Palestinian Exploration, and the best résumé of its results. Then there is a useful index, and having it we may refer to the place we wish to know about, and find the latest and most reliable information about it. The illustrations are numerous, and art is not allowed to rub all their accuracy away. It is a witness to the great work that has been done in Palestine, it is a witness to the greater work that yet remains.

Requests and Replies.

In the *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund for October 1888, there is a most interesting description of the discovery of the site of the Pool of Bethesda. Then in the *Expositor* for February 1893, the Dean of Armagh refers to that discovery as finally settling the question of the site. Can you tell me if scholars in general agree with the Dean?—D. F.

THE questions connected with the site of the Pool of Bethesda have not yet been finally settled. They remain very much as they were when Mr. Schick wrote his report on the discoveries made in 1888. Those discoveries proved the existence beneath the rubbish of the pool, called 'Probatina Piscina' in the twelfth century, which is clearly described by John of Würzburg. It was known that such a pool had existed, but its character was unknown, and it was supposed that all trace of it had disappeared. The excavations have not been complete or ex-

haustive, principally, it is believed, on account of the difficulty experienced in obtaining the permission of owners to excavate on their lands. It is, for instance, by no means certain at present that the second pool mentioned by Mr. Schick is ancient, and the limits of the pool over which the small church was built have not been defined. Some authorities identify Bethesda with the 'Souterrains' at the Convent of the Sisters of Zion, others with the pool described by Mr. Schick, and some still follow Dr. Robinson in placing it in the Kedron Valley at or near the Fountain of the Virgin. A summary of what is known and of the views of different authorities is given under 'Bethesda' in the new edition of vol. i. of Dr. Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible*.

C. W. WILSON.

Warwick Square, London.