

were transferred by a metonymy to the diviners who held commerce with the spirit of the abyss. During the course of centuries the beliefs and superstitions connected with the 'ōb underwent considerable change, as may be seen from later descriptions. The Mishna (*Sanhedrin*, vii.) asserts that the *bā'al 'ōb* is the diviner speaking from

the hollow of his armpit, while the *jid'ōnī* is the diviner speaking directly from his mouth. Josephus also (*Ant.* vi. xiv. 2) and the Septuagint only see in these mediums magicians or ventriloquists possessed by the spirit of divination (cf. *Ac* 16¹⁶). It is possible that the same idea is to be traced in *Lv* 20²⁷.

At the Literary Table.

THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

The Bible.

A PRIMER OF THE BIBLE. BY W. H. BENNETT, M.A. (*Methuen*. Crown 8vo, pp. viii, 228. 2s. 6d.)

IN former days a Primer of the Bible would have begun with Genesis: Professor Bennett's Primer begins with Amos. For it is the history of the Bible in the light of recent criticism. It is the Bible, not as it has been handed down to us by our unsuspecting fathers, but as it has been reconstructed (or whatever stronger word you prefer) by their sharply scrutinizing sons. It is the books, not as they lie, but as they are now believed to have been composed; and it is a brief account of their new relation, the one to the other, and each to the history of Israel, of Judaism, and of the Church.

Now Professor Bennett was the right choice for this. He is a most accurate and intelligent scholar of the Old Testament, and he has some fellow-feeling for our slower brains. He shows us that if we must come to this about the Bible, it does not seem such a dreadful thing to come to after all. It has even winning ways, this new aspect of the Old Testament, fertile ideas, and powers that make for righteousness. Those who are determined that the 'higher criticism' shall not prevail should smother this little book and pass on.

THE MODERN READER'S BIBLE. SELECT MASTERPIECES. BY RICHARD G. MOULTON, M.A., PH.D. (*Macmillan*. Small 4to, pp. xx, 278. 2s. 6d.)

Though the Bible is the book of books, there are varieties of literature within it. Regardless of all but literary merit, Professor Moulton has selected seven stories, eight pieces of oratory, seven essays, seven sonnets, eleven lyrics, and

seven rhapsodies. He has selected them from the Revised Version, as before, but with his own taking arrangement and his own instructive notes. So if we think we should have the Bible by heart (as well as in the heart), and find we cannot have it all, let us take this little book and learn it and we shall do well.

THE HOLY BIBLE. (*Macmillan*. Globe 8vo, Vols. II., III., pp. 459, 478. 5s. each.)

The second and third volumes of the 'Eversley' Bible have come together. The one ends with 2 Samuel, the other with the Book of Esther. The printing, the paper, the binding,—the beauty all round, is incomparable.

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. BY THE REV. R. F. HORTON, M.A., D.D. (*Service & Paton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv, 291. 3s. 6d.)

The women are not the conventional 'twelve good women'; some of them are bad. And the treatment is not the conventional goody-goody observation; some of it provokes surprise. What do you expect from Dr. Horton on Rahab the Harlot, or the Witch of Endor? Not what you find in the commentaries at least. In short, this series (for it belongs to the *Popular Biblical Library*) has started with a determination to keep out of the beaten track of tradition in criticism certainly—but in morality also?

ILLUSTRATED NEW TESTAMENT. (*Nelson*. Small 4to, pp. 576, with 200 Illustrations. 2s. 6d.)

The feature of novelty and the claim for consideration lie in the illustrations. They are from good photographs, and well produced. And they are so placed that they illustrate the text step by step as it is read.

THE EARLY LIFE OF OUR LORD. BY THE REV. J. BROUGH, M.A. (*Murray*. Crown 8vo, pp. 261. 5s.)

Mr. Brough's purpose is to describe the outward circumstances into which Jesus was born, and amid which he grew up. He fulfils that purpose more attractively, more *really*, more usefully for the reader, and especially for the teacher, than any other author we have read, and we have all read not a few. It is a great success, in short; and the pleasure of it is none the less that it makes so little pretension.

THE HERODS. BY F. W. FARRAR, D.D., F.R.S. (*Service & Paton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xix, 234. 3s. 6d.)

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OLD LATIN BIBLICAL TEXTS. EDITED BY HENRY J. WHITE, M.A. (Oxford: *At the Clarendon Press*. 4to, pp. xxii, 53. 5s.)

'Portions of the Acts of the Apostles, of the Epistle of St. James, and of the First Epistle of St. Peter, from the Bobbio Palimpsest (s), now numbered Cod. 16 in the Imperial Library at Vienna.' In his introduction Mr. White gives a history of the decipherment of this interesting Codex, showing that Tischendorf and Belsheim are his precursors, and not hiding, with all his modesty, that he has gone beyond them. Its place and value in textual criticism he also lets us see; and then, when he has given the full decipherment, adds some necessary *Notulae*. It is the fourth issue of this series of Old Latin Texts. One and all, they are of absorbing interest to the student of the New Testament text.

Church History.

THE MYSTERIES, PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN. BY S. CHEETHAM, D.D., F.S.A. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. xviii, 150. 5s.)

The pagan mysteries are almost as mysterious as ever they were. Not having been initiated any

of us, we know very little about them. And as for Christian mysteries, there are none. So Archdeacon Cheetham's task is a difficult one. But it is, of course, about the thing of which least is known that most can be spoken. And Dr. Cheetham has found a large and laborious library on the pagan and the Christian mysteries, and gone laboriously through it. He then comes to tell us how little there is to tell, and to tell it as briefly as he can. The main matter is whether the early Christians adopted any of the pagan mysteries into Christianity. Some of them had been initiated of course; and so Dr. Cheetham thinks it probable that they did carry something over. But he believes that it was far less than Hatch, for example, held. And if there is to be a casting out of foreign elements from our modern Christianity—especially from its Sacraments—it will not change the character of our Christianity quite so much as Hatch declared it would.

THE CELTIC CHURCH IN IRELAND. BY JAMES HERON, D.D. (*Service & Paton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 430. 7s. 6d.)

Here is an able, and at the same time an attractive, new history of the Church of Christ in Ireland, down to the dawn of the Reformation. Professor Heron is a most accomplished Church historian, and withal possesses the pen of a very ready writer. There are valuable contributions throughout the volume to local debated questions, like those that gather round the person and writings of St. Patrick; and to questions of wider interest, like the dogma of Apostolical Succession. But the use of the book is in its clear and sufficiently comprehensive narrative of the way Ireland went with the truth of the living God during a thousand years. And surely it is a narrative that greatly concerns all those who dwell on either island. For from thence sounded out the word of the Lord unto this island also.

A KIRK AND A COLLEGE IN THE CRAIGS OF STIRLING. BY THE REV. D. D. ORMOND. (*Stirling: At the 'Journal' Office*. 8vo, pp. 136.)

There are chapters in the history of the Church of Scotland that have yet to be written. One most interesting chapter has just been written by Mr. Ormond. 'Why,' said a Church historian of Scotland, when he saw the book; 'I never knew there *was* a college in Stirling.' But here is the story of the college, the biography of its pro-

fessors, the list of its theological students. And the Craigs Kirk being so closely associated with the Craigs College, has its history here also, the whole being told in admirable taste by the present incumbent, and illustrated at every turn.

THE EXPANSION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

By JOHN MARSHALL LANG, D.D. (*Blackwoods*. Crown 8vo, pp. xvii, 246. 5s.)

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THE THREE RYLANDS. By JAMES CULROSS, M.A., D.D. (*Stock*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 103. 2s.)

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Doctrine and Apologetic.

THE FAITH OF CENTURIES. (*Nisbet*. Crown 8vo, pp. xii, 350. 7s. 6d.)

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PRACTICAL IDEALISM. By WILLIAM DE WITT HYDE. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. xi, 335. 5s. net.)

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THE SUPERNATURAL IN NATURE. By J. W. REYNOLDS, M.A. (*Longmans*. Crown 8vo, pp. xxviii, 479. 3s. 6d.)

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Devotion.

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