

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

The Life and Growth of Israel: a brief Old Testament History. By Prof. Samuel A. B. Mercer, Ph.D.D. Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A.

THIS little book is a very concise and handy treatment of Israelite history, written in a style and with a sympathy that will make it attractive to many readers. It aims at describing the political and spiritual growth of the people, as will be understood when we note the titles of the chapters: The rock whence they were hewn; the infancy of Israel; the childhood of Israel; Israel's youth; Israel's coming of age; Israel's maturity; Israel's ripened maturity; and Israel's residuary gifts. The book carries us down into the Christian era, and thus enables the reader to realise how the Bible may be said to turn upon a few closely interconnected centuries of history which gave birth to the Old and New Testaments respectively. From the point of view of modern criticism, Prof. Mercer's book is exceedingly "moderate"; it does not enter upon the more serious and fundamental problems which perplex scholars, and, in view of its obvious aim and limits, we must praise the book for what it contains, and not regret its rather superficial handling of questions which, however, more advanced biblical students sooner or later have to face.

Hans Jakob Ammann genannt der Thalwyler Schärer und seine Reise ins Gelobte Land. 4th ed., by A. F. Ammann, Zurich, 1922.

This curious work, to which a brief reference was made in the last number (p. 88), was by one who, as his title describes, was "barber" (*i.e.*, surgeon and doctor) of Thalwil, on the shores of the lake of Zurich. The first edition appeared in 1618, and was *not* illustrated. The numerous quaint illustrations in the present reprint have been added by Mr. Ammann, who is a descendant of the author, in order to show the reader what the towns and buildings looked like in and about the early part of the seventeenth century. They are most of them taken from the little known books of early travellers, such as George Sandys. As the original German is in many cases no longer easy for most students of the language, the editor has added a glossary (pp. 24-30). He has also utilised a biographical sketch of the author, originally by the Rev. Waldburger, of Basle. In many respects this curious old record is worthy of being made known to a wider public, and Mr. Amman has spared no pains to enhance its value and interest.

Ancient Architecture in Syria. By H. C. Butler; *Greek and Latin Inscriptions in Syria: the Ledjā.* By E. Littmann and David Magie, Jr. Leyden, 1921.

The present volume, one of the publications of the Princeton University Archaeological Expeditions to Syria (1904-5-9), consists, as will be seen from the title, of two distinct parts. The Ledjā lies N. and N.W. of the Jebel Haurān, and, as the Classical Trachonitis, has much to offer that is both interesting and important. The architectural remains of the Roman period are many and of unusual interest; and of the Christian period there are churches and chapels, some well-preserved remains of which are still used by the Druses as places for the entertainment of guests. Numerous inscriptions have long been known in the Ledjā, and the fine and now complete collection published or re-edited by Littmann and Magie contains much that is of value. Special attention may be drawn to the god Lycurgus (No. 789), and to the Hellenised Baals, and to the god of Aum (No. 792). Considerable light is thrown by the inscriptions upon the organization of the district under the Romans, and upon the strange blends of foreign and native blood. Nor is a touch of sentiment wanting when, in No. 800, a lady Gadrat writes: "(There is) one God, the helper for Tobias for the building, when he built at his own (expense); and He who helped for the building, will also help for the marriage." We may assume, with the editors of the inscription, that Tobias' expectation was fulfilled.

The Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy. By Henry Sulley. London, Simpkin, Marshall, &c., 1921.

The prophecies of Ezekiel have long been the lode-star of some investigators and the despair of others. From the days of the early Rabbis the contradictions with the Mosaic Law attracted attention, and it was left for one Hananiah, at the expenditure of 300 measures of oil, to explain and to explain away the difficulties. Jerome reported that the beginning and end of Ezekiel must not be read by anyone under thirty. The opening chapter, with the picture of the chariot of Jehovah's glory, formed the basis of the Kabbalah of Mediaeval Rabbinism, and the concluding chapters still continue to perplex even the most "critical" of all critics! How far have we merely a programme, a mystery, or a symbolical representation of a priestly dream? It was an age of apocalyptic and eschatological tendencies, and Ezekiel's sketch must have conveyed

something to those who knew him. Can we recover the secret? Mr. Henry Sulley thinks he can; and in this elaborate volume the author of "Is it Armageddon?" discloses it to his readers. The fact that the book is now in a third and revised edition should be proof that his readers are neither few nor unappreciative; and certainly few "critical" works are able to point to the literary success that his has had. It is difficult, however, for this writer to review the book, much as he is ready to agree that Mr. Sulley is dealing with problems that require *some* solution. It is not very easy to grasp the whole argument, but one may willingly recognise the very fervent spirit in which the author has approached his task. And whatever we may think of this particular solution, it is at least of more than psychological significance that interest in past apocalyptic and eschatological literature has rarely been so keen as at this present age.

Orte und Wege Jesu. By Prof. Cristaf Dalman. Gutersloh, 1921.

The Director of the German Evangelical Institute in Jerusalem here publishes the second and considerably enlarged edition of a piece of work which his long and deep knowledge of Palestine enables him to treat with learning and accuracy. Dr. Dalman's many labours on behalf of the Institute and his journeys in and about the Holy Land have borne good fruit, and in this, the latest of his publications, he presents a highly interesting survey, topographical, historical, and archaeological. The title sufficiently indicates the scope of the work—the places which Jesus visited and the roads he took; and the value of the book has been considerably enhanced by 40 plans and photographs. The book will serve as a readable and stimulating introduction to a study of early Palestine.

Palästina-jahrbuch, No. xvii. By Prof. Dalman. Berlin, 1922.

This, the 17th issue of the Annual, contains articles by C. Weidenkaff (Ain Jalud and the Well of Harod), W. Sütterlin (Tekoa), F. Lundgreen (the Palestian Army in N.T. Times), D. Duham (the Jerusalem Vegetable Market), and by Prof. Dalman himself (the Fruit Market, Aug., 1921; Manna in the Jerusalem Market). The last-mentioned also describes journeys to the Hebron and in the Judæan Mt. Seir. The Annual is a useful and very varied contribution to our knowledge of Palestine, and the contents are quite up to the high level we have always been accustomed to expect.

S. A. C.