

BREVIA.

Dr. Marcus Dods on the Parables of our Lord.¹—Dr. Dods has now finished his homiletic exposition of the Parables with a volume on those recorded by St. Luke. As our readers have had an opportunity of perusing in the *EXPOSITOR* two of these fine discourses, it is needless to say that the completed work is incomparably the best of its kind in the English language, indispensable to preachers, and sure to be widely useful to others. It is a book which will not soon or easily be superseded, for it unites qualities rarely found together. The author's wide and accurate scholarship—never obtruded, but everywhere discernible—is joined to sound common sense and warm spiritual sympathy. Dr. Dods shows his sobriety of judgment in the unerring accuracy with which he sets forth the central teaching of each parable, and not less in his constant resistance of the great temptation to be carried by details into wayward and fantastic interpretations. The moral and spiritual lessons are everywhere enforced with solicitous earnestness. Nature and Life are seen to be a parable of Mercy and Judgment, and their teaching—stern, yet tender—is set forth as it came from the Lord of all worlds. They become vocal with remonstrance to those heedless of the issues bound up with this frail and fleeting term of years. Dr. Dods has, besides, the rare imaginative gift which is absolutely essential for a vital exposition of the Parables. Many passages of his book will linger in the memory: the picture of the wise virgins in their innocent sleep, dream chasing dream of the Bridegroom's coming—of our gradual entanglement in the net wherein we are drawn surely to the shore of eternity to be once more free and young—of those first in reward, as first in service, because they never thought of reward, but passed as humble a judgment on their work as the last and least of their fellow-labourers upon theirs. The writer's tone is not despondent, though very grave: "all his thoughts and words have scope." His style is almost always both strong and calm, though he perhaps occasionally falls into the pulpit use of exaggerated, or over emphatic, language.

EDITOR.

¹ Two volumes. Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d. each.