

The Expository Times Guild of Bible Study.

WITH the month of November the Guild of Bible Study enters upon its seventh session. The purpose of the Guild is to encourage the systematic study as distinguished from the mere reading of Scripture. Two portions are chosen, one from the Old Testament and one from the New; and those who undertake to study, with the aid of some commentary, one or both of these portions of Scripture between November 1896 and September 1897 are enrolled as Members of the Guild. Names of those who are willing to make this effort are sent to the Editor at Kinneff, Bervie, N.B. There is no fee or other obligation.

As the study proceeds, Members may send short papers (if they so find it convenient) on some passage in the books chosen. If possible, the best of these papers will be published in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES. But whether they are published or not, the best ten papers will be chosen at the end of the session, and books will be presented to their writers, selected by themselves out of a list which the publishers will send them.

There is considerable difficulty always in the choice of the portions of Scripture for a new session. Many things have to be taken into account; but perhaps the most important thing is this, that at least one reliable modern commentary should be available for study. Now it is generally recognised that the ablest commentary that has yet been published in English on the *Book of Deuteronomy* is Professor Driver's in 'The International Critical Commentary' series (T. & T. Clark, 12s.). We have used the book daily since its issue, and with ever fresh surprise at its completeness, accuracy, and devotional suggestiveness. It is no doubt somewhat expensive to the working student; but it is worth a library of lesser books. We have accordingly chosen *Deuteronomy* as the Old Testament portion of study for the coming session.

The same consideration has fixed *St. Mark's Gospel* for the New Testament. Professor Gould's commentary in the same series (10s. 6d.) is not the masterpiece Dr. Driver's is. But there is little doubt it is the best in existence in English. To those, however, who wish a less expensive and less exhaustive work, Professor Lindsay's volume in

the 'Handbook' series may be recommended. It is published by Messrs. T. & T. Clark at 2s. 6d., a very small price for an excellent book.

The following new names are received for enrolment this month:—

- Mr. L. Roberts, 20 Chapel Street, Tavistock.
- Rev. Harper Riley, 6 Newlands, Cheadle, Manchester.
- Mr. Bernard Piffard, Hill House, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
- Mr. William Ashworth, 80 Clayton Street, Nelson, Lancashire.
- Rev. Canon F. H. Fisher, D.D., Rector of Pretoria, South Africa.
- Rev. J. Leonard Webbe, M.A., Manea, Cambs.
- Mr. Ernest W. Gurney Masterman, F.R.C.S., F.R.G.S., Medical Mission to the Jews, Damascus.
- Mr. John Barker, J.P., Old Grammar School, Shrewsbury.
- Rev. Herbert Burson, Street Lane, near Derby.
- Mr. David W. Gaylor, 59 High Street, Hawick.
- Mr. Achilles Taylor, The Elms, Hodge Hill, Castle Bromwich.
- Rev. J. Havelock Thompson, 57 Albany Street, Hull.
- Rev. Hugh Livingstone, Free Presbyterian Manse, Minyip, Victoria, Australia.
- Rev. Robert Beith Andrew, M.A., B.D., United Presbyterian Manse, Glengarnock, Ayrshire.
- Mr. Richard Stevenson, Rosebank, Kilmarnock.
- Rev. John Paul, B.A., Kimberley Gardens, Bloomfield, Belfast.
- Rev. Edward H. Waller, The Rectory, Athy, Ireland.
- Rev. George Howells, B.D., Baptist Mission, Cuttack, Orissa, India.
- Rev. M. O. Evans, Congregational Free Church, Wrexham.
- Rev. Arthur J. Jenkins, Presbyterian Church, Newport, Monmouth.