

At the Literary Table.

THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

THE WITNESS OF HISTORY TO BAPTIST PRINCIPLES. BY W. T. WHITLEY, M.A., LL.M., LL.D. (*Alexander & Shephard*. Crown 8vo, pp. 99. 2s.) Principal Whitley is an eminent Baptist and an accomplished scholar. He has, moreover, a fine sensibility to truth. He believes in baptism, but he does not believe in twisting history to fit it. These are facts he tells, and they are many and memorable.

THE SEED-BASKET. (*Allenson*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 101. 1s.) *The Seed-Basket* is twin to *The Tool-Basket* so lately and so favourably noticed here. It contains at least a year's sermons or addresses, easily made, worth making, and sufficiently your own.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH. BY FR. L. VON HAMMERSTEIN, S.J. (*Burns & Oates*. Crown 8vo, pp. xxii, 307. 6s.) Darwinism (we say nothing of Evolution) has fallen upon evil days. Book after book, and some by able men, come out against it. The weapon of effective satire is bent upon it. Three volumes have been published in Germany by Fr. von Hammerstein, of which the first is here translated. It has had a great circulation in its native land. And it is easy to see the reason. For Fr. von Hammerstein is an absolute and unrepentant unbeliever in Darwinism, and his attack is both vigorous and uncompromising.

THE RIGHT OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY. BY B. B. WARFIELD, D.D. (*T. & T. Clark*. Crown 8vo, pp. 92. 2s.) It is not the right of theology, you observe, but of systematic theology, Professor Warfield champions. Theology is not now denied its right to exist as lately was so common and so confidently done. It is systematic theology that has been driven from the field. And it is not an enemy that hath done this. It is a friend and sister science—even the science of biblical theology. Professor Warfield has no grudge against the science of biblical theology. His grudge is that she should claim all the room and drive her sister into the street. And no one

of us, with all our affection for biblical theology, will deny that there are offices she cannot perform. At this present time, when Ritschlianism and other sins are rampant, a system of theology is a great necessity. And if we have been giving undue place to biblical theology, we may have been opening the way for Ritschlianism to lift its head so high.

Dr. Warfield has a fine scholarship and an earnest pen. It is a timely, charming brochure.

MINISTERIAL TABLE-TALK. BY THE REV. J. J. POOL, B.D. (*Dickinson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 227. 4s.) If ministerial table-talk is as sparkling, informing, and inoffensive as this, it will do.

SERMONS. BY THE REV. JOHN LAIRD, D.D. (Edinburgh: *Elliot*. Crown 8vo, pp. 272.) Unless this is a wholly unfair representation, Dr. Laird's hearers were marvellously blessed. For these are no ordinary pulpit discourses. Indescribable by any single epithet, undistinguishable for any single virtue, they are broadly evangelical, wisely practical sermons, every one containing enough of the gospel to save all the hearers they had, and every one earnest enough to actually save them. Dr. Laird's accomplished son, the minister of Durris, has selected these sermons, and written a preliminary biography. He cannot have been unjust in his selection, for he is strikingly just and true in this most praiseworthy memorial.

RELICS OF PRIMEVAL LIFE. BY SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON, K.C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv, 336. 7s. 6d.) Sir William Dawson has found the meeting-place between theology and geology, and made the subject his own. We know what he is able to do. We know how he can do it. And when a new volume comes speedily after another, we are never disappointed.

This one is more geological, and less theological, perhaps. The illustrations, however, help to give us that idea. They are excellent and appropriate. Nevertheless, the interests of the queen of the sciences are not forgotten. The whole book is

written in a most Christian spirit, and it is crammed with interesting information.

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS. BY MARCUS RAINSFORD, B.A. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 294. 4s. 6d.) While some are wondering whether there ever was a tabernacle in the wilderness, Mr. Rainsford uses it and all its appurtenances to picture Christ and lead the way to the Christlike life. Given faith in the tabernacle and in Christ, this book will be found brimful of beautiful thought and spiritual impulse.

BOOKS FOR BIBLE STUDENTS. THE PRAISES OF ISRAEL. BY W. T. DAVISON, D.D. (*Kelly*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 287, xl. 2s. 6d.) This is a new edition of Professor Davison's charming and indispensable popular introduction to the Psalter. It contains a valuable appendix and notes, every note the manifest work of a scholarly believer.

PRACTICAL STUDIES IN THE PARABLES OF OUR LORD. BY B. W. MATURIN. (*Longmans*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 295. 5s.) Father Maturin is like John Knox—in some ways. He is a great preacher, and his strength is in the application. Now these sermons on the Parables are nearly all application. 'Practical Studies,' he calls them—emphasize the adjective. There is no waste of words searching for the occasion—it is found in the eager, arrested audience the preacher has before him. Every preacher finds something of his own in the parables; this is Father Maturin's finding. It is present duty, pressed home urgently; there is no escaping from under it.

THE HERITAGE OF THE SPIRIT. BY MANDELL, Bishop of Peterborough. (*Sampson Low & Co*. Crown 8vo, pp. 216. 3s. 6d.) The 'Preachers of the Age' seemed to have come to an end. But we have only been given space to gather an appetite for this substantial volume. There is nothing startling in it. There is solidity and strength, and a steadfast hope that entereth within the veil. All the sermons are 'special'; nearly all are 'university.' They, therefore, undertake great themes, but their ability and reticence redeem them from all presumption.

When a powerful understanding and a keen sensitiveness to truth go thus together, the witness for Christianity is as impressive as it can be.

THE MODERN READERS' BIBLE. THE CHRONICLES. BY R. G. MOULTON, M.A., Ph.D. (*Macmillan*. Small 8vo, pp. xxi, 273. 2s. 6d.) So much was said last month on the aim of Professor Moulton's *Modern Readers' Bible* that the simple announcement of this new volume is surely all-sufficient.

THE MORE ABUNDANT LIFE. BY THE RIGHT REV. PHILLIPS BROOKS, D.D. (*Macmillan*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 244. 6s.) Did you not say that Phillips Brooks was a broad Churchman? He may have been a Churchman, but you must take the adjective away. These Lenten readings are not the handiwork of a 'broad' man, as that word is specifically used. They are not the work of a man whom we care to classify ecclesiastically at all. They are too full of the universal human heart for that, too full of the heart of the Son of Man.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS. BY R. W. CHURCH, M.A., D.C.L. (*Macmillan*. Globe 8vo, 2 vols., pp. 416, 492. 5s. each.) Dean Church is one of the very few theological writers of the last generation whose work we must read, all of it, let there be little or let there be much. For he had these three gifts: literary style, scholarly attainment, and a sensitive conscience. The two volumes that have just been issued contain 'leaders' and reviews which appeared at intervals during half a century almost, in the *Times*, the *Guardian*, and the *Saturday Review*. The occasion of most of them has passed away, but they remain. The men that are described, and the works that are reviewed, are nearly all dead, but the descriptions and the reviews are alive. We must not miss anything that Dean Church wrote; we certainly must not miss this.

FOR EACH NEW DAY. (*Nisbet*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 379. 3s. 6d.) Each new day of all the year has its quotations. The quotations are taken from the writings of popular preachers. They seem to have been selected with two ends in view: that the point might be perceptible, and the gospel preached. The book is also most

pleasantly produced. All in all a welcome addition to a fairly well-filled shelf.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSE.

By WILLIAM W. HOWARD. (*Nisbet*. 8vo, pp. xx, 719. 12s. 6d. net.) The title is frankly ambitious. But it only expresses a morsel of the author's ambition. The whole story of matter and of mind is to be told, if health and years are granted. This is a considerable volume, but it is only the introduction; the next is already on the way. Its subject is the Holy Trinity. 'Other volumes will carry us through Cosmology, Biology, Anthropology, Sociology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology.' Yet the author has not written this first volume hurriedly. He has spent thirty years upon it, for 'composition was a terrible task for me.' 'I reckon that I have passed, at least, nine hours a day in my study for years, all for this object.' 'Often, too, I have lain awake all night, night after night for weeks, pondering over some hard point that confronted me.'

And yet this man is not a fool. He has read extensively, and in the right places. He understands what he reads. He has originality—how could he miss that, being manifestly so earnest and sensitive? He is thoroughly aware of the places where the problems lie, and where they lie most perplexingly. If only he could write! He knows he cannot write. He has laboured with his sentences incredibly, rewriting them times without number. But, after all, it is so hard to find him, so easy to lose him again. We dare not attempt, as yet, to say what his great theory is. Only this we may say, that the book is worthy of the utmost attention we can give it; and we believe that the more attention we give to it, we shall always find it worthier.

OBJECT-LESSONS FOR CHILDREN. By THE REV. C. H. TYNDALL, M.A., PH.D. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. 242. 3s. 6d.) Object-lessons are a triumphant success, or a disastrous failure. Some men dare not attempt them; they would turn the lessons and themselves to ridicule. But what a power and persistence when one can accomplish them. A guide is needed to give advice and courage. This is an excellent guide. The subjects are thoroughly worthy, being nearly all the great doctrines of the Christian Faith; they are always reverently

handled; the objects, too, are easily attainable by any one. In short, this man's method is practicable, and should furnish very encouraging results.

FAMOUS SCOTS. TOBIAS SMOLLETT.

By OLIPHANT SMEATON. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*.) Crown 8vo, pp. 156. 1s. 6d.) Having questioned the right of one Scot to his place in this 'Famous' list, we dare not question another. And we have no need. Smollett is beyond our reach. Mr. Smeaton proves him beyond the reach of detraction or dissent now. He does not idolise him, assuredly. He shows him human, irresistibly human and natural, and he shows him great. We reckon it one of the most successful of all this most successful series.

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. ST.

MARK. By THE REV. A. E. HILLARD, M.A. RUTH AND I SAMUEL. By THE REV. P. W. H. KETTLEWELL, M.A. (*Rivingtons*. Crown 8vo, pp. 112, 139. 1s. 6d. each.) There is small comment, but it is all good. When the text will do, it is left alone. 'When it is unintelligible to the average schoolboy, it is explained. The explanation is in as few words as possible. And the introductions are as workmanlike as the notes.'

THE WRITINGS OF ST. PATRICK. By

THE REV. C. H. H. WRIGHT, D.D. (*R.T.S.* Fcap 8vo, pp. 159. 1s.) This is a new and much-enlarged edition of one of the R.T.S. 'Christian Classics'; and Professor Stokes no longer has his name on the title-page; for it is Dr. Wright's work, and let him have the honour of work worth doing well done.

WHEN WERE OUR GOSPELS WRITTEN?

(*R.T.S.* Fcap 8vo, pp. 95. 1s.) As one of the 'Present-Day Primers,' the R.T.S. has reissued Tischendorf's well-known *Argument*. It is curious to read now, 'Published under arrangement with the author.' But the reissue of the book is welcome; for with all our progress, and we have made progress here, Tischendorf's *Argument* is valid and converting still.

CHRISTIAN MEN OF SCIENCE. By

VARIOUS AUTHORS. (*R.T.S.* 4to, Illustrated.) One good purpose which these brief biographies will serve, and that immediately, is to dispel the

delusion that all our men of science are atheists. What a gallery is here: Bacon, Pascal, Boyle, Newton, and on they go, and they are Christians every one. The writers are well known, from Dr. Salmond to Dr. Macaulay, and they have done their work with enthusiasm and with truth.

HISTORY IN FACT AND FICTION. By THE HON. ALBERT S. G. CANNING. (*Smith, Elder, & Co.* Crown 8vo, pp. 336.) Mr. Canning believes that history may be found in the works of fiction. It is a happy inspiration. And though he does not go to work upon it at once, and even when he does, only skims its surface, the idea is good, and so abundant is the field that he gathers no contemptible harvest.

ECCLESIASTICAL VESTMENTS. By R. A. S. MACALISTER, M.A. (*Stock.* Crown 8vo, pp. 270. 4s. 6d.) The subject may not be of eternal account, nor even to some of us of much present insistence. But the subject, such as it is, finds full, clear, and even loving treatment in this very handsome volume. And the book is so richly illustrated that its price is an insoluble mystery.

HOW TO PREACH WITH POWER. By THE REV. W. H. YOUNG, Ph.D. (*Stock.* 8vo, pp. 319.) You expect the answer to be, 'preach in the Holy Ghost.' But you are mistaken. It is the machinery Dr. Young is concerned with. And this is the most elaborate, let us say the most scientific representation, of the outward mechanism of the art of preaching we have ever seen. It is an American work. It is evident that in America they look upon the preacher as not born but made.

OUR CHRISTIAN YEAR. (*Stock.* Crown 8vo, pp. 346.) The subject for every Sunday, according to the Book of Common Prayer, is explained to the little ones in words that are simple, and in thoughts that are both reverent and true. The speech is direct. There are abundant questions. Thus two great ends are accomplished: the attention is caught, and the gospel is preached.

THE CHILDREN'S STUDY. ENGLAND. By FRANCES E. COOKE. IRELAND. Edited by

R. BARRY O'BRIEN. (*Fisher Unwin.* Small 8vo, pp. 253, 330. 2s. 6d. each.) These two volumes ought to settle the question of the success of the 'Children's Study.' Scotland was far too long, and the type in consequence far too small. Germany was right. But these are both quite charming. Especially it seems that Ireland is successful. There is a fulness and breadth of treatment which the English volume could not have. The children are certain to be interested, for each episode is full enough to make it a story. And always the attitude is unbiassed and historical.

SMALLER BOOKS.

1. PRAYER IN THE FOUR GOSPELS. By W. E. WINKS. (*Baptist Tract and Book Society.* 1s. 6d.)
2. EARTH'S PREPARATION FOR MAN. By THE REV. H. J. ALCOCK, M.A., T.C.D. (*Nisbet.* 1s.)
3. THE ABODE OF DEPARTED SAINTS. By BERNARD PIFFARD. (*Stock.* 1s.)
4. OUR TRAVELS ROUND THE WORLD. By MAJOR-GEN. E. C. SIM. (*Alexander & Shephard.*)
5. MISSIONS TO JEWS. By THE REV. W. T. GIDNEY, M.A. (*Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews.*)
6. HOLY SCRIPTURES. By DEAN GOODE. (*Nisbet.* 6d.)
7. RELIGIOUS EQUALITY. By THE REV. ALEXANDER MACLAREN, D.D. (*Alexander & Shephard.*)
8. IS CHRISTIANITY POSSIBLE WITHOUT MIRACLES? By THE REV. A. ADAMSON, B.D. (*Dundee: Thomson.* 6d.)
9. ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION. By THE REV. W. COOKE, D.D. (*Burroughs.* 3d.)
10. FOUNDATIONS. By HERBERT W. HORWILL, M.A. (*Allenson.* 1d.)
11. THE BOOK OF DANIEL. By P. W. GRANT. (*Snow.* 6d.)

LITERARY NOTE.

PROFESSOR LAIDLAW has just issued a new work under the title of *Foundation Truths of Scripture as to Sin and Salvation*. It is one of Messrs. T. & T. Clark's 'Handbooks.' The subject may have been handled before, one's wonder is that it has not been handled a hundred times. For this is the kind of book one has felt the need of times without number. And Professor Laidlaw is just the man to write it. He has knowledge, he has experience, he has the living touch with the living Word.