BOOK REVIEWS.

I. HOMILETICAL.

The Supreme Conquest.

By Rev. W. L. Watkinson. Fleming H. Revell Company, Chicago.

This is a volume of sermons. Rev. W. L. Watkinson, D.D., is an English preacher of the Methodist denomination. Some of the sermons were "occasion sermons" preached in this country. The eleventh, "Words of Life", was delivered at the "Moody Bible Institute", Chicago, and the thirteenth before the "New York Ministers' Conference".

Dr. Watkinson is a good preacher. He is happy in his choice of texts, and the subjects that he deduces from the texts are especially felicitous. One often wonders how he will get the subject from the text. But the first few lines of introduction show how he does it, and we must admit that he does it legitimately. A striking subject is advantageous, especially so if the preacher convinces us that he draws the subject from the deep places of the text. In this respect Mr. Watkinson gives us a valuable lesson.

Another thing worthy of notice is that as a rule the preacher spends very little time on the introduction to the sermon. He explains the meaning of the text, and shows how the subject comes out of it, and then plunges into the sermon. He convinced me that long introductions are disadvantageous.

The sermons abound in illustrations, historical and scientific, and nearly every one of them really illustrates, interests the reader, and makes the subject plainer. He has shown us how a preacher can use scientific facts to illustrate spiritual truth. For years I have felt that our preachers should make a thorough study of the sciences while in college. Here is a vast store-house of interesting and useful facts. Such illustrations

are new and interesting, while most of the historical illustrations are worn threadbare.

I can not say that these sermons are quite as good as Hugh Black's "Listening to God". Mr. Black never lets you get out of the presence of God. He does not seem to know what is going on in the world—like a man in earnest prayer. Mr. Watkinson is aware of the noise on the streets—often refers to the critics and opposing views. But he is true to the truth. The sermons are good! They stimulate the mind and stir the soul. These subjects will indicate the bill of fare he sets before us: "Emancipation from the Past", 2 Pet. 1:9; "Successful Sin", Job 24:6; "The Supremacy of Character", Matt. 6:33, etc.

Watkinson and Black are both from the other side of the Atlantic. What is the matter with our American preachers? We have great preachers in this country. I wish they would publish some of their sermons!

J. P. GREENE.

New Theology Sermons.

By R. J. Campbell, M. A., Minister of the City Temple, London; Author of "The New Theology". New York. The Macmillan Company. 1907.

The general characteristics of the "New Theology" as formulated by Mr. Campbell have been generally advertised; indeed, the stir created in religious circles by the publication of his opinions was quite surprising, in view of the fact that the New Theology has ceased to be very new and has been pretty thoroughly exploited by other and abler men. Probably it was the fact that he occupies one of the most conspicuous pulpits in the world which gave an exceptional importance to his utterances in the popular mind.

These sermons are the homiletical expression of the views set forth in "The New Theology". Neither these nor any other of his published sermons which have fallen under the eye of this reviewer disclose any remarkable pulpit power, and yet he seems to make a powerful impression upon his hearers. Evidently there is something in the personality and presence