

The Grounds of Theistic and Christian Belief. By PROFESSOR GEORGE P. FISHER, D.D., LL.D., Yale University. Revised edition, in great part rewritten. New York : Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902. Pp. 463. \$2.50.

No American writer of the last fifty years has done more by his published works to promote an intelligent apprehension of Christianity than Professor Fisher, of Yale. Born in Massachusetts in 1827, and educated at Brown University and Andover Theological Seminary, he became professor in Yale Divinity School in 1854, occupying since 1861 the chair of ecclesiastical history. In May last, at the age of seventy-five, he withdrew from the active duties of the professorship, and the present new edition of one of his most useful books is the product of the leisure which has resulted.

The first edition of this book was published in 1883; and, although it was reprinted from time to time, no change was made in the contents. But the growth of knowledge, the development of opinion, and the shifting direction of interest, prepared the way for a thorough revision of the book, to make it an effective apologetic for the next score of years. The public is indebted to Professor Fisher for this making over of his *Grounds of Theistic and Christian Belief*. The new edition contains about one hundred additional pages, though the resetting of the book in smaller type leaves its size about as before. Some chapters of the first edition (chaps. 11, 14 and 18) have been dropped, while others (chaps. 10, 12 and 19) have been placed in the appendix (Notes 21-3). The material also has been entirely rearranged. Two whole chapters are new, namely, chap. 6, on "The Evidence of the Divine Origin of Christianity from its Ethical and Religious Teaching and from the Comparison of it with the Greek Philosophy," and chap. 14, on "The Gradualness of Revelation." The remaining chapters have been entirely reworked, and in some cases greatly enlarged, *e. g.*, chap. 11, on "The Authorship of the Fourth Gospel," and chap. 13, on "The Relation of the Christian Faith to the Bible and to Biblical Criticism."

Professor Fisher has not, however, found it necessary to modify his former views in any important particular. It is no doubt true that the book is a much more conservative one now than it was twenty years ago *relatively* to the status of current scholarly opinion, which has made a marked advance. Nevertheless, it is still a highly valuable and timely book. Its usefulness has not decreased, even though it is less a leading force than formerly, because it can now serve as a steady-

ing force in the progress that is being made. One may say of this new edition what one has for years said or felt of the first edition, that it is a pre-eminently sane, lucid, scholarly, and helpful presentation of the foundations of Christianity, both historical and philosophical. It is especially adapted to remove the difficulties which arise to the serious mind when it is sought to justify Christianity in the light of modern physical and mental science, and modern historical research; or if the difficulties cannot be removed—and the author is frank in such cases—the elements of the problems are indicated, and the bearings of the problem shown in a way to inspire steadfastness of faith and patience in suspended judgment. For minister and for layman alike no better book can be named for the cultivation of a reasonable, devout, and receptive attitude toward the increasing knowledge and appreciation of Christianity, together with an unshaken belief and trust in those essential truths and principles which the gospel of Christ brought to light.

C. W. V.

Guide to Palestine and Egypt. (“Macmillan’s Guides.”) New York: The Macmillan Co., 1901. Pp. xix + 270. \$3.

The Holy Land. Painted by JOHN FULLEYLOVE, R. I.; described by JOHN KELMAN, M. A. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1902. Pp. xv + 301. \$6.

A compact guide-book that shall contain accurate information concerning both Palestine and Egypt has been greatly needed for the increasing army of tourists to these two countries. There are admirable guide-books already on the market, some of them fairly encyclopædic in their treatment of geography and archæology; but the rapid traveler rebels at their very virtues. He cares little for scholarly discussion of disputed sites of places he can never visit, and wishes a readable description of those main points of interest which he is likely to see in a fortnight’s visit. This want the first of these two volumes undertakes to meet. Its maps are admirably drawn and colored, its selection of subjects is suited to tourists, and as a piece of typography the book is singularly successful. Its contents, too, are on the whole well adapted to its purpose. Its style is simple and interesting, its scholarship is not oppressive, and its author’s acquaintance with the land undeniable. Sometimes, however, one is hardly convinced by its earnest arguments. For instance Baalbek’s great stones are held by its author — “who has devoted much time and thought extend-