

of God; the divine providence; the efficacy of prayer; the reality of miracle, as results effected through laws of which man is ignorant; atonement of the cross, of which no satisfactory theory can now be given.

The book is written in a devout spirit. If it is too broad for many, there are doubtless other doubting and troubled minds who will find it helpful in their effort to maintain an attitude of positive faith in the midst of the theological confusion of our age, which has set them adrift from their moorings. The spirit of the little volume is excellent and its purpose manifestly is to reassure the disturbed.

C. S. GARDNER.

## V. OLD TESTAMENT.

**The Book of Genesis.** By Professor Calvin Goodspeed, D. D., Baylor University, and Professor D. M. Welton, D. D., McMaster University. American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia. 1909. Octavo. Pp. 253.

We have for a long time needed a thoroughly conservative modern commentary on Genesis. Radical and Mediating scholars have issued learned commentaries on Genesis, and have done much to elucidate and illustrate Genesis. The American Baptist Publication Society undertook, in 1892, the preparation of a Commentary on the Old Testament for English readers, as a companion to its excellent commentary on the New Testament. Dr. Alvah Hovey was selected as General Editor of the series, which was entitled "An American Commentary on the Old Testament." The Publication Society committed to Dr. Hovey the work of engaging the writers for the entire work. He assigned to Professor Daniel M. Welton, of McMaster University, Toronto, Genesis and Judges. Dr. Welton prepared the Commentary on Judges, and had almost completed the notes and comments on the text of Genesis when death called him hence. At his urgent request Dr. Calvin Goodspeed consented to revise the comments and to prepare the Introduction to Genesis. Professor Goodspeed devotes more than twenty-five pages of the

Introduction to the discussion of the date and authorship of the Pentateuch. He shows a good acquaintance with the literature of the subject, and is thoroughly sane in his method of argumentation. Both Dr. Welton and Dr. Goodspeed regard Genesis as thoroughly trustworthy in all its parts. Throughout the Commentary the treatment is sane and safe. Naturally, in a brief commentary many topics of interest are but lightly touched, and many questions in literary criticism are omitted. The student who wishes to go more deeply into questions of Higher Criticism is referred to some of the best literature in defence of the substantial Mosaic origin of the Pentateuch. Busy pastors and intelligent Sunday school teachers will find this Commentary exceedingly helpful. JOHN R. SAMPEY.

**Some Aspects of Rabbinic Theology.** By S. Schechter, M. A., Litt. D. (Cantab). The MacMillan Co., New York. 1909. Pp. 384, Octavo. Price, \$2.25.

Dr. Schechter is favorably known as a Jewish scholar of real learning and admirable spirit. He has read widely in Rabbinic literature, and knows how to put in good English the results of his research. He does not attempt a history of the development of Rabbinic theology. He quotes from Jewish authors covering a period of two thousand years, without following any chronological arrangement. As an apologist for Judaism, he naturally puts before his readers the teachings which most commend themselves to modern readers, whether Jewish or Christian. As a student of Jewish thought he was led to question many statements about the Rabbinic theology found in the works of Christian scholars. It seemed to him that outsiders did not properly interpret the sayings of Jewish scholars. As a loyal Israelite he undertook the task of interpreting the Rabbinic authors to men of the present time. "Having been brought up," he says, "among Jews who did live under the strict discipline of the Law and were almost exclusively nurtured on the spiritual food of the Talmud and Midrashim, and having had occasion thus to observe them for many years, both