

BOOK REVIEWS.**APOLOGETICS.****The Church's One Foundation.**

By Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, M. A., LL. D. A. C. Armstrong & Son, New York.

This book is issued as a "popular edition." Our readers will recall the first edition which appeared three or four years ago. The work was reviewed quite generally at the time and has been rendering admirable service in the interest of the evangelical faith ever since. Indeed it is one of the most clear and convincing of the briefer works which have appeared in recent years on its chosen subject. It deals with the heart of Christianity, Jesus Christ himself, and with critical theories relating to the Gospel records. Criticism has during the last generation attempted from so many individual points of view to undermine these records that it is a considerable task even to enumerate the attempts. With criticism as such Dr. Nicoll has no quarrel. As he says in his introduction "The church cannot without disloyalty and cowardice quarrel with criticism as such." But, as Dr. Nicoll shows, when the claims of criticism are subjected to careful scrutiny it is found not only that there is no unanimity in the conclusions reached but also that criticism is without canons of judgment and critical methods for reaching conclusions on many of the problems with which it assumes to deal. It would be a great gain if criticism could define its function and limits, and then adhere to both. The scholastics never dogmatized about the unknown in a wilder manner than many of the modern critics. The inductive method which limits assertions to known facts has had a curious reversal in this particular sphere of investigation.

Dr. Nicoll points out the real issues raised by the

destructive critical process as applied to the New Testament, and shows their significance for faith. He writes in a style most lucid and interesting and exhibits a familiarity with his subject which reassures the reader from the outset. There are few of the technicalities which, in the hands of so capable a scholar, it would be natural to expect. We do not know of any book which we would recommend more heartily to the mass of thoughtful men and women, younger as well as older, who in our day have been disturbed in their faith by the claims of criticism.

E. Y. MULLINS.

The Crown of Science, the Incarnation of God in Mankind.

By A. Morris Stewart, M. A. Fourth edition. London. Andrew Melrose. 1904. pp. xvi, 223. Price 3s 6d.

In the enlargement of knowledge and the elaboration of theories in this new day of scientific discovery, research and outreach very divergent attitudes toward religion, especially toward the Christian religion, have been all along evident. That the present temper of thinking men is increasingly reverent and religious is beyond question and cause for fresh hope in the onward and upward advance of man. Our larger learning sought out for itself new forms of interpretation and theories of content. The new wine must need have its new skins. Many there were who cared little for saving either the old or the new and with reckless hands poured the new wine into old skins only to exult in seeing them burst and to revel in the abundance of the new wine little concerned for saving it.

Maturer thought has changed much of this and is changing more. The new skins are good also for the old wine and will themselves grow old. A large school has arisen to make use of the conceptions and theories of the larger learning not only to conserve but to expand and enforce these fundamental facts and truths that are as old as man is old, because they set forth the relations of man and God.