

used to resort in their efforts to eliminate the miraculous from the life of Christ. The resurrection of Lazarus seems to be admitted, but the admission is coupled with the curious notion that Lazarus (as well as those whose restoration to life is recorded in the synoptic gospels) was preserved from conscious entrance into that state of being into which the human spirit usually passes when separated from the body. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to note the peremptory rejection of the theories propounded by Paulus, Strauss, and Renan respectively. Even more interesting than the exposition is the introduction, which treats of the authorship, date, purpose and nature of the Fourth Gospel. Those who are already familiar with the works of Dr. Weiss will eagerly turn to this part of the volume to ascertain the present attitude of one of the ripest living scholars to "the Johannean Question." A summary of the whole argument would occupy too much space, so that a few selected points must suffice. Speaking generally, Dr. Weiss stands where he did. Both the external evidence, which is marshalled with wonderful skill and force, and the internal evidence, endorse, to his mature judgment, the testimony of tradition that the apostle John wrote this gospel in Asia in the last quarter of the first century. The kernel of the gospel, he still believes, consists of true history and faithfully reported teaching; but the form has been in a considerable degree colored and moulded by the writer's strong individuality. No direct purpose is admitted except that plainly indicated in the gospel itself. The view which has found so much favor with modern critics, that the gospel cannot have been written by the writer of the Apocalypse, is discountenanced by Dr. Weiss. The fundamental difference between the two writings, he argues, renders close comparison inappropriate: they were separated by an interval of twenty years, during which Jerusalem was destroyed and the apostle John removed from Palestine to Asia, and, notwithstanding their radical dissimilarity, they exhibit many correspondences of thought, imagery, and expression. All this is not sufficient to prove identity of authorship, but it ought to prevent the assumption that this identity is impossible. As the work seems to have almost passed through the press at Christmas, Dr. Weiss was unable to use the newly discovered Gospel of Peter, so that we are left in ignorance of the accomplished exegete's estimate of the bearing of the document on the controversy. He claims to have consulted recent authorities as far as possible, but there is a regrettable paucity of references to works written in English; and it is rather surprising that even the famous article of Dr. Schürer seems to be ignored.

W. TAYLOR SMITH.

The Expositor's Bible: The First Book of Kings. By the Ven. Archdeacon F. W. FARRAR, D.D., F.R.S. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1893. Pages xii. and 503. Price \$1.50.

The biblical and Christian world owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Farrar for his many valuable contributions to the better understanding of sacred literature. His mastery of the English tongue in its most fascinating forms, his prodigious

learning in many fields, and his firm grasp of the truth of whatever he handles give great popularity to every product of his restless pen. In the book here noticed he applies his methods and skill to an historical book of the Old Testament. It gives a great field for the play of a keen imagination, as well as for prudence in picking out the chief lessons to be impressed upon the reader. The author puts the whole narrative through his loom, weaves together into exquisite patterns the warp and woof at his disposal. Striking expressions, telling hits, illustrations from all history, bits of pat poetry, and an elegant rhetorical finish fill the book with genuine interest.

The work is divided into four books, (I) Introduction, (II) David and Solomon, (III) the Divided Kingdom, (IV) Ahab and Elijah. The introduction discusses (1) the higher criticism, (2) the Book of Kings, (3) the historian of Kings, (4) God in history, (5) history with a purpose, (6) lessons of the history. The body of the Book of I. Kings is treated in forty-one chapters, and the whole is concluded with an appendix on chronology, in which the last and best system (division of kingdom, 937 B. C.) is adopted.

In the introduction the writer defines, though not always clearly, his position on critical questions. The discussion shows that he follows, though cautiously, such authorities as Robertson Smith, Stade and Kittel. He is quite ready to speak of "historic tradition" (p. 302), "details added later" (p. 297); and sometimes to question the historical verity of the narrative. He, of course, is not an independent investigator on these lines, and, as we should expect, must, in large part, popularize positions already taken by recognized leaders. While carefully following the latest works in these studies, he has not neglected to add an abundance of useful and striking examples out of his fund of knowledge of ancient and modern history. His method of pursuing the subject by topics rather than by texts furnishes ample play for adding to this rich source of teaching and truth. The abundance of footnotes tells of the wide preparation of the author, and are also an extremely valuable apparatus for the real student. The book has no index—a blemish, indeed, on an otherwise praise-worthy and helpful work.

PRICE.

Wit and Humor of the Bible: A Literary Study. By MARION D. SHUTTER, D.D. Boston: The Arena Publishing Co. 1893. Pages 219. Price \$1.50.

"What a title!" Why not? The Bible represents the whole circle of human nature. Its serene and solemn, gay and joyous moods are pictured. It would be passing strange if the Bible contained no traces of genuine wit. This is a bright book. It brings out numerous cases of biting repartee, sarcastic retort, and caustic irony. In some cases the humor is apparent only in the curt, epigrammatic expression. In others there are real startling flashes of wit. This is a new and legitimate side to the human nature of the Bible, and Mr. Shutter has brought it out with good effect.

PRICE.