

This difficulty has been met by a system of double notation. While the poetic form of necessity often leads to paraphrase, there can be no question that it helps the reader apprehend the spirit of the original composition. For the student of the New Testament the third book has a special interest, as so large a part of it is probably pre-Christian and must be used in the study of the rise of the messianic hope. Professor Terry has provided the book with all possible aids for study — analyses, bibliographies, and appendices.

S. M.

The Books of Chronicles. With Maps, Notes, and Introduction. (*Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.*) By WILLIAM EMERY BARNES, D.D. Cambridge: The University Press, 1899. Pp. xxxvi + 303. \$1.

There was room and need for a good commentary on Chronicles. Apart from Bennett's homiletic treatment in the volume of the *Expositor's Bible*, English readers have had nothing on this portion of Scripture which is up to the level of recent scholarship. Within the somewhat contracted limits imposed by the series of which it forms a part, Dr. Barnes has in this volume done much to supply this want. He is conservative, yet acquainted with recent critical work; cautious, yet fair and judicial in his estimate of evidence. His introduction is particularly full, as might be expected, on the historical value of the chronicler's contribution to Hebrew history. He takes five typical instances: Abijah's victory, Asa's victory, Jehoshaphat's victory, Uzziah's leprosy, Manasseh's repentance, and sums up as follows: "The general conclusion to which the study of these five narratives (and indeed of Chronicles as a whole) leads us is that the substantial accuracy of the chronicler's sketch of the history of Judah cannot reasonably be questioned." It does not seem to us that in the crucial case of Manasseh's repentance, where we have outside material (Assyrian) to test the matter, he is very successful in his judgment. He contents himself with a reference to Schrader, whose treatment is somewhat antiquated. But, on the whole, the Scotch verdict is the safest, and if Dr. Barnes leans to the positive side, it is no discredit to him. The weakest part of the introduction is the discussion of sources, which is incomplete and indefinite. The commentary for all general uses will, however, be found adequate and helpful. It is certain to have a place in the libraries of students.

G. S. G.