

scope for wild allegorizing, and the student needs a steady guide like Dr. Dods. The volume is a worthy successor of Bruce and is another tribute to the skill of the canny Scotch in expository work. A. T. ROBERTSON.

**Studies in the Apostolic Church.** A Year's Course of Thirty-five Lessons, Providing a Daily Scheme for Personal Study. Adapted Also to Class Work.

By Charles Herbert Morgan, Thomas Eddy Taylor, S. Earl Taylor. Cincinnati. Jennings & Pye. 1902.

This volume corresponds to *Studies in the Life of Christ* and answers the same purpose, as stated in the sub-title.

**The American Baptist Pulpit at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century.**

Edited and published by the Rev. Henry Thompson Louthan. Williamsburg, Va.

This is a valuable and unique book. The editor's idea was to print a set of sermons by Baptist preachers which should represent every State in the Union, every Territory, our outlying possessions, our educational institutions and mission boards. With this great aim in view, he secured sermons and brief sketches from sixty-three men. These men are of varied ages, training and culture, standing in great city pulpits or in less commanding places, representing our denominational pulpit at the dawn of the twentieth century. The men chosen are not in all cases—perhaps not in any—natives of the regions they represent, and for this reason the book is a singularly representative one. For it has preachers who were born and educated in one part of the country preaching in another; and being selected in this way—by locality rather than by eminence or fame—the preachers are representative of the denomination as a whole. There are names here familiar to all, and there are some not so well known. So much the better. Mr. Louthan has done the

Baptist denomination, the cause of evangelical religion and the history of preaching a valuable service in the preparation of this work. Every one interested in the history of American Christianity, especially of its recent pulpit work, should have a copy of this book. Certainly every theological library in the land should have it for reference.

In contents and character the stout volume speaks for itself on every page. It is a book of strong and interesting modern sermons. They deal with many phases of the religious life of our time, and do it in a healthy, vigorous way. The reader is first of all struck with this feature. It is a live, up-to-date book. There may be fossilized religion in some quarters, but it does not appear in these stirring pages. And yet there is here nothing revolutionary or shocking. There is a sanity and steadiness in the tone that is truly refreshing and helpful. The positive, not the critical, is the prevalent attitude of the collection. Men believe and, therefore, they speak. Various as are the men, the subjects, the treatment, the occasions, there is one note of loyalty to Christ and His truth which sounds throughout the volume.

It is gratifying to note the virile and excellent English which as a rule is found in these sermons. These men not only know what to say, but how to say it effectively, clearly, and in many cases aptly and beautifully. One would have to be a very pessimist to read any considerable number of these discourses and then prate of a decadent pulpit among the American Baptists of to-day. We must not look for the flowing oratory of past generations, nor for the sermon style of the Puritan period. These had their day, and that day is not ours. But he who would find strong thinking, direct and forcible speech to the hearts and minds of the men of to-day on the great themes of the gospel of Christ, will not go amiss when he looks into this volume. It would be invidious to select special sermons or preachers for detailed eulogy,

and the reviewer is content to express thus in general terms his high appreciation of the work as a whole. For there are also points and phrases, thoughts and expressions, to which more or less of exception would have to be taken. And for this criticism there is no special need.

The editor has well done his work in giving brief and well-written and condensed biographical sketches, and along with these, good reproductions of photographs. The reviewer is gratified to recognize (without difficulty!) many of his personal friends, and, therefore, judges that the pictures as a whole are excellent. Indeed, to all concerned this is an exceedingly creditable volume, and a useful contribution to the history of the American pulpit, especially that of the Baptist denomination.

E. C. DARGAN.

#### **Studies of Familiar Hymns.**

By Louis F. Benson, D.D. Philadelphia. The Westminster Press. 1903.

An orderly and scientific study of Hymnology is still a desideratum. Julian's important and valuable Dictionary comes nearer being complete than perhaps any other English work. But it is a dictionary and not a treatise. Most of the books—and they are numerous and good—discuss particular parts or phases of the limitless subject. It would be a practically lifetime business for a well-equipped and enthusiastic scholar to produce a fairly satisfactory general treatise, giving the history and principles of Hymnology with enough of biographical and illustrative detail to afford a reasonably complete account of the great subject. Discouraged by the vast and ever growing accumulation of material, scholars will probably continue to do what they have been doing and give us only fragmentary or special discussions.

The book before us is of this sort. It takes twenty-five "familiar" hymns—of which about half are really familiar in any general sense—and discusses these in an