

The Life of Christ in Recent Research.

By William Sanday, D. D., LL. D., Litt. D., Lady Margaret Professor, and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford. Oxford University Press, New York. 1907. Pages 328.

It is an event in New Testament circles when Dr. Sanday publishes a book, and one is grateful that they are not far apart. Dr. Sanday is at work on a *Life of Christ* on a very comprehensive scale. Meanwhile as by-products we have his *Outlines of the Life of Christ*, *Sacred Sites of the Gospels*, *Criticism of the Fourth Gospel*, and the present volume. They are all welcome and of great value. I am inclined to consider the one here under discussion as possibly the most valuable of all. That is saying a great deal when one understands the worth of Dr. Sanday's work. There is no abler nor saner New Testament critic than he. This does not mean that each of us could agree to all of his positions. But even when one differs he does so with a distinct sense of gratitude for the light that has been shed upon the point at issue. Perhaps the chief characteristics of Dr. Sanday's criticism are fullness of information, penetration of insight, balance of judgment. There is a constant struggle in his mind to do full justice to all the new knowledge without the sacrifice of any of the old truth that is really truth. This temper is notably true in the chapter on "Miracles," where his caution is distinctly characteristic. Dr. Sanday is more positive in this volume in the expression of his conviction that John the Apostle is the author of the Fourth Gospel than he was in the *Criticism of the Fourth Gospel*. One is glad to note this. Two of the chapters deal with the work of an American scholar, Dr. DuBose, of Sewanee, Tenn., by way of criticism of his books, "The Gospel in the Gospels", and "The Gospel According to St. Paul". Dr. Sanday urges Americans to treat Dr. DuBose kindly as a sage and a seer. His work is highly esteemed and deservedly so on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. Sanday draws a striking parallel between Dr. DuBose and Dr. R. C. Moberly, of England.

The bulk of Dr. Sanday's new volume consists of five lectures delivered at Cambridge with two additional chapters

reviewing the questions from a somewhat later time. These Cambridge lectures give the title to the volume and possess the chief value for the student of New Testament criticism. Dr. Sanday keeps fully abreast with German research. The work in recent years that has made the most impress on Dr. Sanday is Schweitzer's *Von Reimarus zu Wrede* (1906). He does not accept Schweitzer's conclusions always by any means. He is, however, greatly impressed with the interpretation of the teaching and life of Christ from the eschatological point of view. Schweitzer minimizes the teaching element in Jesus and considers Him as a prophet, a prophet indeed under the spell of the Jewish ideas of the kingdom. He denies that the Jews of the time held to a political kingdom. They did expect a great cataclysm in connection with the coming of the kingdom. Dr. Sanday rightly points out that Jesus was often called teacher also, and that the rabbis and the apocalyptists did not always have the same idea of the kingdom. There is distinct value in Schweitzer's point, and an element of truth in it. But it is not possible to bring all that Christ has to say under this one idea. That is one vice in German criticism, the demand for uniformity. The truth is that the kingdom with Christ is not always future. It is sometimes present. It is not always sociological and general, but usually personal and invisible, the rule of God in the heart. The basal element in the kingdom is the reign of God in the heart of the individual. One must allow for freedom in the use of the word kingdom if he is to do justice to all that Jesus is credited with teaching on this subject. Indeed, in the case of the parable of the tares and the net the judgment comes distinctly at the *end* of the work—the kingdom—not at the beginning. The kingdom is too complex an idea for eschatology to cover it all. But get Dr. Sanday's book and read about it all. A. T. ROBERTSON.

The Life of Christ According to St. Mark.

By W. H. Bennett, M. A., D. D., Litt. D., Professor Hackney College and New College, London. New York. A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1907. Pages 295. Price, \$1.75, net.