

## BOOK REVIEWS.

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### I. NEW TESTAMENT.

**VON REIMARUS ZU WREDE.** Eine Geschichte der Leben-Jesu-Forschung.

Von Albert Schweitzer, Lic. Theol. Dr. phil. Privatdozent an der evang. theol. Fakultät zu Strassburg. Verlag von J. C. B. Mohr, Tübingen, Germany. 1906. S. 418. Pr. M. 8. Geb. M. 9.

It is a great task that Dr. Schweitzer has here undertaken. He has sketched the criticism of the life of Jesus from Reimarus whose *Leben Jesu* appeared in 1786 to Wrede whose *Messiasgeheimnis* was published in 1901. He considers Reimarus to be the first scholar who applied historical and scientific methods to the study of Christ's life. One is bound to say that the outline here given of this great stream of criticism is able, even brilliant. The processes by which so much new light has been thrown on the historic conditions of Christ's life are clearly set forth. Naturally, for Dr. Schweitzer's criticism is chiefly German criticism. He considers that the historic Christ as the theologians pictured him never existed at all. The traditional Christ is a fiction, and hence the historical foundation of the old Christianity is gone. The real ground of Christianity is the stream of influence that emanates from Jesus, though he himself is unknown to us, as he was to those who saw and heard him. As an historic personality Jesus is foreign to our time and is no longer a teacher of the modern world. He offers himself as Master to those who will obey. In a word, it is a purely naturalistic Jesus that criticism leaves us, stripped of all supernatural aspects. This in brief is the inspiring picture of a purely negative Christ that Schweitzer gives as the fruit of a century and a half of radical negations! But after all is said, one doubts if the radical critics represent the sober results of real criticism. Somehow Jesus still saves men from sin as he did when

the negative critics of his day when on earth proved that he was not the Messiah and had no power to do it. Logic to the winds! Jesus healed the paralytic and forgave his sins. So to-day, in spite of all men's pettifogging criticism Jesus saves the drunkard from drink. It is no doubt true that many erroneous ideas of Jesus have existed and do exist, those of the radical critics being fine specimens of such errors. The criticism of Christ that will stand is a sane criticism, not a one-sided scholarship. One should blink at no facts, only if they are facts. The true critic welcomes all real truth. But literary criticism is not all the truth, nor is all of it truth. Jesus challenges the whole of man's nature, not merely intellectual ratiocinations. Jesus is open to the intellect, provided the intellect is a clear one, a balanced one, not a conceited one, not a prejudiced one. But it is the will where Jesus makes his battle over the human life. That battle goes on irrespective of all the critics from Reimarus to Wrede.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

**DIE SCHRIFTEN DES NEUEN TESTAMENTS.** Neu übersetzt und für die Gegenwart erklärt.

Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht. Goettingen, Germany. I Band. 1906. II Band, Bogen 1-8. 1907. Preis 7 M.

This is the second edition of a very able new translation of the New Testament into German, with introduction and comment. The first volume is here complete and the second is begun. The work is sent out under the direction of Prof. Johannes Weiss, of Marburg, but he is assisted by Profs. Baumgarten, Bousset, Gunkel, Heitmüller, Hollman, Jülicher, Knopf, Koehler and Lucken. This group of scholars represent the more advanced wing in Germany. The result is a New Testament that is in harmony with the modern radical scholarship of Germany. It is interesting from that standpoint and ably done, of course. The order of the books here translated and edited is Mark, Matthew, Luke, Acts, I and II Thessalonians, Galatians, I Corinthians. This is not,