

The Prayers of the Bible.

By John Edgar MacFadyen, M. A., Professor of Old Testament Literature in Knox College, Toronto. New York. A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1906. Pp. 388.

Professor MacFadyen has done useful service in producing this book. It is a thoughtful and devout study of a most important theme. It will be widely useful not only to preachers and Bible students, but to all who care for the Bible or prayer in any of their aspects. Barring a few exceptions on minor matters, which may be neglected, the style is good and pleasant, and the book interests from beginning to end. A more serious exception must be taken to the author's critical position. This is frankly revealed in these words from the preface: "The results of recent criticism are throughout the volume presupposed." Sometimes it seems that the author goes out of his way to thrust forward these so-called "results", which are often mere hypotheses at best. And sometimes there is a sort of refinement of detail which mars rather than assists the spiritual impression. But the uncritical and devout reader may pass these blemishes by without harm to himself, and the critical opponent of the school which Professor MacFadyen represents will of course do his own thinking on the points of difference. With these allowances, and with occasional demurrers to particular opinions here and there, it is a pleasure to bear testimony to the excellence of the book as a whole, and to commend it to the careful study and frequent consultation of Christians.

The treatment is divided into four parts, of which the first is a critical, historical and exegetical study of Biblical prayer; the second discusses modern prayer, with lessons derived from the preceding study; the third contains a collection of all the prayers of the Bible arranged (for the most part) chronologically under the general divisions of Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving and others; the fourth part is a selection of Biblical expressions suited to use in modern worship. The author's

treatment is scholarly, fair-minded, usually well-balanced, devout. His exposition and discussion of the prayers of Jesus and of Paul are particularly strong and good.

E. C. DARGAN.

A Guide to Preachers.

By Alfred E. Garvie, M. A., D. D., Professor at Hackney and New College. A. C. Armstrong & Son, New York. 1906. Pp. 352.

The author of this book, Dr. Garvie, is a preacher and professor among the Congregationalists of England. The book consists of brief reports or sketches of a series of lectures given, more especially to lay preachers, at the Lyndhurst Road Congregational church in London. But while intended particularly for the lay preachers it has many helpful hints and suggestions for the regular ministry, and for those who have had more experience in preaching than the hearers to whom these lectures were primarily addressed. There is nothing very new or startling in our author's treatment of a familiar subject, but his study is sensible, pleasing and practical. His first section tells how to study the Bible; the second, how to state the gospel; the third, how to preach; and the fourth, how to meet the age. Brief chapters discuss various topics under these general divisions. It seems to this critic that the author goes further than is necessary in his concessions to the advanced school of modern criticism; but his acceptance of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and the need of a clearer and more forcible presentation of these to the modern mind is strong in itself and ably presented. For beginners in the ministry, and even for others, the book will well repay careful reading. One good thing about it is that the author suggests good books to read on the subjects he discusses. The most of these are English books and they have been judiciously selected. The book is beautifully printed and is a pleasure both to the eye and mind.

E. C. DARGAN.