

The Universal Bible Dictionary. A. R. Buckland, M.A., Editor. New York, Fleming H. Revell Co., 1914. 511 pp. \$1.50 net.

The aim of this able and concise dictionary is to meet the need of the ordinary reader and Bible student for whom the more exhaustive and costly works are not especially suited.

It is thoroughly trustworthy and far more comprehensive than the average Bible Dictionary. It not only discusses Biblical topics in a satisfactory and illuminating way but constantly refers to the Bible text in a most helpful and suggestive fashion. Hence this Dictionary is preeminently Biblical while taking into adequate account the researches of scholars and archaeologists.

The work is a fine introduction to systematic and theological study, and treats in an able and suggestive manner the texts of the Old Testament and New Testament, and the different books of the Bible. Such topics as Inspiration, the Higher Criticism, Jesus Christ, the Atonement, Regeneration and Justification are discussed in such a simple, direct and scholarly way as to awaken gratitude for the appearance of this Dictionary. The volume is conservatively modern, progressively evangelical, and constructively critical.

BYRON H. DEMENT.

The Bible as Literature: An Introduction. By Irving Francis Wood, Ph.D. and Elihu Grant, Ph.D. The Abingdon Press, New York, Cincinnati, 1914. 346 pp. \$1.50 net.

This book is given forth as an "Introduction" to a complete course of Bible study. The course was outlined by a joint committee representing the Eastern and Western sections of the Associations of College Instructors in the Bible, the departments of colleges and universities and of teacher training of the Religious Education Association, the student Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A., and Sunday School Council, and has been tested in part at some of the leading colleges. This book is said to be the outcome of many years of Bible teaching in college.

The course will include the following books besides this one: "Old Testament History," by Prof. Ismar J. Peritz, of Syracuse University; "New Testament History," by Dr. Harris Franklin Rall, President of Iliff School of Theology; "Social Institutions and Ideals of the Bible," by Prof. Theodore G. Soares, University of Chicago; and "The History, Principles and Methods of Religious Education," by Prof. F. H. Swift, University of Minnesota.

The authors are acclaimed as "acknowledged experts in their respective fields." Barring the detailed points of criticism, this introductory volume attempts to give only such information "as will make it possible for the student to enter upon our *literary* heritage in the Bible," under the avowed conviction that "when we learn to appreciate the Bible as literature we will be better able to discover its true religious value." With this purpose in view, the preface says, "there is no need for the discussion of the doctrines of inspiration or revelation." "No one can make such a plea for the Bible as the Bible itself makes, when read with sympathy and scholarly appreciation. It is a fact, not a theological theory, that the religious value of the Bible is immeasurably greater than that of any other literature in the world. Nor does the literary study of the Bible lead away from its religious value, but rather by the surest and safest path directly to this value."

Mr. Wood has written Part I, the Old Testament portion and the section on the book of Revelation; Mr. Grant is responsible for Part II, the New Testament portion, with the exception noted.

The contents are so arranged that the course may be used by classes covering the whole Bible in a year, or by those who prefer to take only the great masterpieces of Biblical literature.

The book certainly has the merits of clearness of style, untechnical simplicity of diction and terminology, and convenience of arrangement for the use of classes. It represents in general the point of view of the Religious Education Association.

GEO. B. EAGER.