

BOOK REVIEWS

I. OLD TESTAMENT.

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary of the Book of Job, Together With a New Translation. By the late Samuel Rolles Driver, D. D., Regius Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, and George Buchanan Gray, D. Litt., Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis in Mansfield College, Oxford. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1921. Vol. I, pp LXXVIII, 376; Vol. II, pp. XII, 360. \$7.50 net.

The first volume of this important treatment of the Book of Job contains a new translation and commentary, the second volume being devoted to philological notes. Persons not acquainted with Hebrew can use the first volume to good advantage while those who wish to pursue close critical study of the Hebrew text and the ancient versions will prize the second volume also. For careful critical study of Job the volumes under review are indispensable.

Much of the last eighteen months of Dr. Driver's life was devoted to the Book of Job. Dr. Gray assigns to Professor Driver responsibility for Chapters 3-28 of the Translation; 3:1-9:10 and 40:15-41:30 of the Commentary (in large part); and Chapters 3-31 and 32:7-42:6 of the Philological Notes (except matter enclosed in square brackets). For all else in both volumes Professor Gray is responsible. Dr. Gray has also contributed the translation of the famous passage in 19:25-27.

Hebrew students may congratulate themselves that Dr. Driver was able to contribute so largely to the new translation and the philological notes; for no scholar since Ewald had a finer appreciation of Hebrew Syntax. He also kept his poise better than most modern Old Testament scholars in the realm of Biblical Criticism, especially in the department of Textual Criticism.

He refused to be swept off his feet by the wave of conjectural emendations, whether based on theories of accentual beats in Hebrew poetry or merely individual guesses as to what the original writer may have wished to say. Dr. Driver places before the student the principal emendations suggested by Duhm and Beer, but remarks, parenthetically, "I do not believe myself that 1 to 10 is necessary or probable." Referring to the great help he had received from Beer's treatment of the Hebrew text of Job, Professor Driver adds, "But I cannot accept many of his emendations; he seems to me often hypercritical and prosaic." Professor Gray is more enamored of the newer theories as to Hebrew metre and rhythm, though far more conservative than some in amending the text on the basis of metre. He also takes middle ground to the unity of the Book of Job, accepting the Prologue and the Epilogue and the first speech of the Almighty as belonging to the original as it left the hand of the great poet author. He regards Chapters 28, 32-37 and 40:6-41:34 along with a goodly number of brief passages, as later additions to the original manuscript. He also rearranges the material in Chapters 26 and 27, giving part to Job and part to Zophar.

One rises from a careful perusal of the joint work of Drs. Gray and Driver with a sense of satisfaction that the most thorough and critical modern scholarship leaves us substantially the great religious poem with which we have become familiar in the English Bible and in the excellent brief Commentary on Job by Professor A. B. Davidson.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Prophet of Reconstruction (Ezekiel). A patriot's ideal for a New Age. By W. F. Lofthouse, M. A., Tutor in Hebrew Language and Literature, Hansworth College, Birmingham. James Clarke & Co., Limited, London, 1920. 250 pp. 6 shillings net.

Prof. Lofthouse has sought to draw from the study of the life and work of Ezekiel principles on which the reconstruction of our modern world might be safely carried forward. He is frank enough to confess that the task of reconstruction seemed more