

Israel's Account of the Beginnings; Contained in Genesis I to XI. By Walter N. Patton, Ph.D., D.D., Professor of Biblical Literature and History of Religion in Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. Boston, The Pilgrim Press, 1916. xii+182 pp. \$1.00 net. Postage 10 cts.

“The purpose of the present work is to meet the needs of such as desire to understand the argument of the Hebrew writers in the first eleven chapters of the Book of Genesis. To attain this end a paraphrase of the text based upon the comparison of the Hebrew original has been largely used, and free comment on the story told by the paraphrase has been employed to draw out the implications of the writer's narrative.”

Professor Patton also states that “this volume is designed to be the first installment of a series covering the History of Israel's life and literature to the year 79 A. D. In so far as this plan may be realized, the special purpose to unfold the argument of the Biblical writers and the other Jewish writers will not be lost sight of. The purpose to serve college students particularly, while keeping in view others interested in ancient Israel, will also not be forgotten.”

Professor Patton follows the critical analysis which is at present in vogue in most of the universities of the world. He takes up “the priestly writer's story of Creation” first, and then considers “the Jehovist's story of man's origin and primitive life.” Throughout the discussion the pupil's attention is constantly directed to the different sources lying back of the narrative as it is presented in Genesis. The closing chapter of the book presents the permanent teaching of Genesis 1-11. In an appendix the author gives a summary of the Babylonian Epic of Creation and of the Babylonian Deluge myth.

The notes to the various chapters are put in print that is rather taxing to the reader's eyes.

We seriously question the wisdom of such emphasis upon the documentary theory of the Biblical Books in a textbook for college students. Even if the Wellhausen theory of the Hexateuch were universally accepted, we doubt the wisdom of spending so much time on the frame-work of the narrative. College students need to have a thorough acquaintance with the entire English

Bible; and it is not likely that they would be willing to give time enough to learn the Bible story as we have it and at the same time pursue the minute study of the current critical analysis.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Books of the Pentateuch. Their Origin, Contents and Significance. By Frederick Carl Eiselen, Professor of Old Testament Interpretation in Garrett Biblical Institute. New York and Cincinnati, 1916. The Methodist Book Concern. 351 pp. \$1.50 net.

Professor Eiselen is preparing an Introduction to the Old Testament, the first volume of which is the Pentateuch. He devotes four chapters to the consideration of arguments in favor of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. After a consideration of the arguments in detail, he concludes that the evidence is not sufficient to establish the theory that these five books came from the pen of Moses. He next devotes three chapters to the arguments which favor the composite character of the Pentateuch. Additional chapters deal with post-Mosaic elements of the Pentateuch and the Law Book of King Josiah. Three chapters take up the question of the chronological order of the Pentateuchal documents, and in two chapters the author points out ancient poetic and legal material which has been embodied in the documents. Dr. Eiselen accepts substantially the literary analysis of scholars like Wellhausen, Dillman, and Driver. In estimating the historical and religious value of the Pentateuch, he takes his place among the more conservative critics.

The chief feature of Prof. Eiselen's treatment which differentiates it from other recent Introductions is its combination of completeness and fullness of treatment with more popular language and style than is usual in books on Biblical Introduction. He also quotes more extensively from conservative writers, and shows a better appreciation of the arguments in favor of conservative positions than is usual on the part of authors who have espoused the modern critical views as to the composition of the Pentateuch. Prof. Eiselen's style, while not brilliant, is clear and pleasing. He knows how to put his case in such a way as to appeal to Christian preachers and teachers.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.