

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### I. HOMILETICAL.

#### **The Lamp of Sacrifice.**

Sermons preached on special occasions by W. Robertson Nicoll, Editor of the Expositor, etc., etc. New York. A. C. Armstrong & Son. Pp. 395.

These delightful sermons shine with a glow of feeling and a literary charm for which their distinguished author is noted. The title indicates that the main golden thought is that of sacrifice. One does not often read more convincing and touching sermons than those on "Gethsemane," and on the "Water Shed." The former treats of the blessing which comes from bloodshedding. It concludes with these striking sentences: "The Church of Christ must be put in agony, praying more earnestly, sweating, as it were, great drops of blood before the world can be brought to Christ. We give nothing until we give what it costs us to give, Life. There is no life without death. Gethsemane is the rose garden of God." The sermon on the "Water Shed" uses this title to describe the doctrine of our Lord's divinity. The thought is suggested by a poem of Oliver Wendell Holmes. The preacher shows how this doctrine is necessarily the dividing line in theology and preaching. Besides the sermons there are several addresses. One of fine literary insight and critical skill is that upon the preaching of Hall and Foster, and there is a charming brief address on the "Passion of Cowper". The book deserves to find and will find a large circle of pleased and profitable readers.

E. C. DARGAN.

#### **Sermons Preached in England.**

By Rev. Alexander Lewis, Ph. D., Pastor First Congregational Church, Kansas City, Mo. New York. Fleming H. Revell Company. \$1.25 net.

The author of these discourses is a well known Congregational preacher who has held important pastorates in

the east, and is now minister of the First Congregational Church in Kansas City. The sermons were given in several of the Congregational and other churches in England during a year's residence and study. Thus a certain local and international interest attaches to the series. The quality of the sermons themselves is good without being exceptional in any way. They are such as perhaps ten thousand American preachers could and would produce under similar circumstances. They are chiefly expository in method, homiletical in structure, clear and dignified in style, evangelical in tone, devout and helpful to piety in aim. We have no reason to be ashamed of our fellow country-man abroad. The sermons are satisfactory without being pre-eminent. They make pleasant and profitable reading.

E. C. DARGAN.

#### **New Shafts in the Old Mine.**

By O. A. Hills, D. D., Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wooster, Ohio. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 75 cents.

This little volume contains nine expository sermons which are good examples of their kind. The Westminster Press is doing well to continue bringing out small volumes of sermons by leading ministers of the Presbyterian Church. Previous volumes have been noticed in this Review. It is pleasing to reflect that these modern discussions are called for by readers as well as hearers. The spiritual insight, homiletic skill, evangelical doctrine and earnest purpose of Dr. Hills are all apparent in this little volume. The first sermon on the Christian's Hope, shows how an old doctrine may be freshly treated by thorough study of the great text concerning the "Inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away". The sermon on the Awakening of a Soul, expounding the conversion of the woman of Samaria, is well and ably wrought out. There is also a striking discussion on the two prayers; those of Satan on one hand and of Jesus on the other, in the case of Peter.

E. C. DARGAN.