

Dr. Smith has given us a book that will provoke thought and stimulate research. There is not a dull page in it.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Culture of Ancient Israel. By Carl Heinrich Cornill, Professor of Old Testament History in the University of Halle. Chicago, The Open Court Publishing Co., 1914. 167 pp.

American admirers of Professor Cornill have brought together in this volume five of his popular lectures on Old Testament subjects. In the lecture "Rise of the People of Israel" and in that on "Moses, the Founder of Monotheistic Religion," Professor Cornill presents the current advanced view of the origin of Israel's religion. He always speaks and writes in a most fascinating manner. On almost every page there may be found sentences worthy of quotation by reason of their brilliancy. Among the notable deliverances contained in the volume under review, we allow space for the following:

"The most careful and impartial weighing of all adverse arguments and difficulties has not as yet been able to shake my faith in the genuine historical authenticity of Abraham. I regard Abraham as an historical personality in the strictest sense of the word, as really so as Alaric, the king of the Visigoths, or Rurik, the prince of the Varangians." "Israel is the only nation of which we have knowledge, that had never had a mythology, that never differentiated divinity according to sex—the concept 'goddess' is so absolutely inconceivable to the Israelites that the Hebrew language never attempted to form the word 'goddess!' This is a miracle performed by Moses which is greater and more incomprehensible than the greatest and most incomprehensible which tradition has ascribed to him." "Permit me in closing to mention a recent personal experience of mine, illustrating the manner in which the Psalms give us the fitting word for every situation in life. One who for days and weeks has watched in anguish over the life that is dearest to him on earth, when he has already prepared to surrender it, there comes a turn for the better, and the angel of death who has already spread his

dark wings over the victim, departs, and life returns,—who could express what overwhelms his deeply stirred heart in such a moment save in the words of the Psalm: ‘God is unto us a God of deliverances; and unto the Lord belongeth escape even from death.’ “Religion itself put into speech for all mankind,—that is the significance of the Psalms in universal literature.”

Professor Cornill also discusses “Education of Children in Ancient Israel,” “Music in the Old Testament,” and “The Psalms in Universal Literature.” The author’s weight of learning does not in the least prevent him from being intensely interesting.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Romance of Bible Chronology. An Exposition of the meaning, and a Demonstration of the Truth, of every Chronological Statement Contained in the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament. Volume I. The Treatise. Volume II. Chronological Tables. By the Rev. Martin Anstey, B.D., M.A. Marshall Brothers, London and New York, 1913. 302 and 56 pp.

Mr. Anstey has spent much time in the study of Biblical Chronology. The results of his investigations are presented in a very attractive manner. The tables are so arranged that the eye can quickly seize the salient points. The mechanical work is excellent. Moreover, the evident fascination of the subject for the author is contagious, so that one reads the letter-press accompanying the tables without imagining that he is dealing with a dry and tedious subject. The student of this work will learn much besides mere chronology. One does not need to accept as final the conclusions of the treatise in order to get profit from perusing its pages. Here is a storehouse of information concerning the problems of Bible chronology.

The most striking and original feature of Mr. Anstey’s work is his use of Daniel 9:24-27 as a means of determining the length of time between the first year of Cyrus the Great and the crucifixion of Jesus. He interprets a week as meaning seven years; and thinks that there were 483 years (or 69 weeks) between the decree of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the temple and the