

**Studies in Methodist Literature.** By Watson Boone Duncan, A.M., Ph.D., Author of "Character Building," etc. Nashville, 1914, Publishing House M. E. Church, South. 173 pp. 50 cts. net.

This is an analytical and descriptive bibliography of works whose authors were Methodists. It was prepared and arranged as a volume for the "Epworth League Reading Course," but will have general interest not only for Methodists but for others as well.

## II. BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

### 1. *Old Testament.*

**Die Psalmen übersetzt und erklärt** von D. Rudolf Kittel, Professor der Theologie in Leipzig. Erste und zweite Auflage. A. Deichert'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung. Leipzig, 1914. lix+521 pp., 12 M.

Professor Kittel is recognized as one of the foremost Old Testament scholars in the world. The appearance of a commentary on the Psalms from the pen of such a distinguished teacher is a notable event in Biblical scholarship. Professor Kittel informs us that his purpose was not to prepare a specially learned commentary, but rather one that could be easily understood, and at the same time thoroughly readable. He expresses warm admiration for the work of Gunkel entitled, "Ausgewählten Psalmen," and of Stark, who has written on the Psalms in the series entitled, "Die Schriften des Alten Testaments," edited by Gressman and other scholars. He has made it his aim not to accumulate a body of learned opinion from the works of previous scholars but to make a fresh translation from a carefully edited Hebrew text, and then to contribute such introductory matter and explanatory notes as will enable the reader to appreciate the beauty and power of the Psalms. Dr. Kittel has succeeded in his effort to make a thoroughly readable commentary. He does not give any considerable space to questions of authorship. He makes it his aim to present these beautiful lyrics as the highest expression of Israel's religious life; putting more emphasis on literary form and religious life than on ques-

tions of date and authorship. Professor Kittel does not agree with the radical critics concerning the late origin of psalm-writing in Israel. He is of the opinion that psalms were composed and sung in the time of David, and possibly at an earlier date. He thinks, however, that it is scarcely possible to identify any individual psalms in the Psalter as we have it as Davidic in origin. He devotes little space in his commentary to such questions, making it his aim to introduce modern readers to the charm and uplift that come from a sympathetic study of Israel's hymnal and prayer-book.

Dr. Kittel has prefixed to each psalm a special title, some of which are quite happy. He suggests as the title for the First Psalm, "The Two Ways"; for the sixteenth, "God the Highest Good"; for the thirty-seventh, "Happiness of the Wicked Appearance Only"; for Psalms forty-two and three, "Homesickness for God"; for Psalm seventy-one, "In Old Age Forsake Me Not." In general, Professor Kittel has given special attention in his commentary to literary form, thereby making it easy to understand his meaning and enticing the reader to pursue the study. Special topics of great importance are treated at length in separate articles. There is full recognition of the Babylonian and Egyptian literature similar to the Psalter. Dr. Kittel has learned much from Calvin in the psychological interpretation of the Psalms. He has also drunk deep of Luther's spirit. He has written a commentary that will find a warm welcome on the desk of Old Testament scholars.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

**The Prophet and His Problems.** By J. M. Powis Smith, Ph.D. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914. 244 pp. \$1.25 net.

Three of the eight chapters in Dr. Smith's latest book had already appeared in Biblical or theological journals, though there has been revision and enlargement of them for the volume on "The Prophet and his Problems." The author is known as a diligent student, a vigorous teacher, and a stimulating writer. He is master of a trenchant style; and is not afraid to speak his