

largest and most important church in the Conference." The experiences are official, family and personal. It is good, wholesome reading for all classes.

III.—BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research. By A. T. Robertson, M.A., D.D., LL.D., Professor of Interpretation of the New Testament in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Hodder & Stoughton; New York, George H. Doran Company, 1914. xl+1360 pp. \$5.00 net.

To speak in the measured terms of the moderation and reserve of scientific scholarship is not easy for one who for fifteen years has watched the growth of a work that has taken much of the author's time and energy through a full quarter of a century. I have read every word of it except in the indices. Nearly all of it I have worked through with such critical care as my limited equipment made possible. I have had unusual opportunity, therefore, to know the book. My love for the author and my admiration for his remarkable work have not blinded my eyes for defects, but in the face of the surpassing magnitude of so great an achievement and of such great excellencies minor matters are not to be mentioned. It is difficult to know where to begin to speak of so unusual a production within the limits of a review. Let me describe its make-up. The *preface* of eight pages is a strikingly frank personal declaration. The "Table of Contents" sets forth simply the three "Parts," *Introduction*, *Accidence*, *Syntax*, with the chapter headings, twenty-two in all, and indicates the indices. A "List of Works most often Referred to" occupies twenty-one pages, while it is explained that an exhaustive analytic bibliography which had been prepared had to be omitted. The body of the work occupies twelve hundred and eight pages, with a dozen more pages of "additional notes" occupied mainly with a "list of important verbs" including none that is "purely normal." An English "Index of Subjects" an "Index of Greek Words", each calls for twenty-six pages; and all index pages are in double column. The "Index

of Quotations," eighty-six pages, gives a suggestion of the comprehensive character, exhaustive completeness and inestimable usefulness of the work. Naturally the great bulk of quotation references are to the New Testament, seventy pages. They include nearly all the verses of the New Testament and indicate how thoroughly the grammatical facts of these writings have been covered. Not only are more than four-fifths of all verses of the New Testament treated in some way but very many receive multiple treatment, for various items, rising even to the number of nineteen references (to Acts 17:27). The most valuable of all commentaries on the Scriptures are the grammatical commentaries and while direct Scripture exposition cannot be the immediate aim of a grammarian inevitably he is telling the meaning of Scripture at every point and giving the reason for this interpretation. And so it comes about that this Grammar, covering with such thoroughness all vital points of etymology and syntax in the entire New Testament, must prove itself for the willing student the very best of commentaries on the New Testament. It will be the necessity and the joy of the commentator. But it will equally be the companion and instructor of that class of preachers, happily growing in numbers, whose chief source of help in sermon making is their Greek Testament. This Grammar is no mere dry treatise for the limited circle of learned professors and investigators. The enthusiasm of the author for the Word of the Lord, while not allowed to jostle his critical judgment nor to limit the intensity of his laborious research, has nevertheless inspired every page. He has seen all along, as the bright motive of almost endless toil, the illumining of the supreme message of God for humanity. All students with a good working knowledge of Greek will be able to use this Grammar as an unfailing source in interpreting the New Testament messages.

The Old Testament has, of course, contributed a distinct grammatical influence to the language of the New. Much patient, critical study of the Septuagint has in recent times yielded valuable returns in learned works, all of which Dr. Robertson has used constantly, and his *Index* includes four pages of ref-

erences to Old Testament passages, with an additional page of references to the Old Testament Apocrypha and several to the "Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs."

What more than anything else has made necessary and profitable a reworking of the New Testament by the grammarian is the discovery in the last two generations, mainly within one generation, of innumerable examples of the common Greek speech, literary and vernacular, of the time and shortly before, and succeeding the time, of the New Testament writings. In his Introduction Professor Robertson has given a good account of all this with discussion of its bearing on our understanding of the writers of the New Testament, and throughout his work has made full use of these discoveries, as represented in copies of the inscriptions, papyri and ostraca themselves in considerable measure, and as represented in the works of the great scholars, in all languages, who have devoted themselves to their collection, classification and interpretation. Six pages give references to these sources of information used in the body of the work. Other Greek literature, from classical to modern times is used so extensively that four pages are needed for these references.

I have felt that in no other way could I so quickly give my reader some suggestion of the inexhaustible stores of helpful learning offered in this volume, a volume that at once takes rank among the most extensive and most important single productions in this or any other land or time. Dr. Robertson's "Short Grammar," translated into French, Italian, Dutch and German and running in its third American edition and with a special edition in England, had been produced to meet the necessities of New Testament study while the great work was preparing. It had revealed Dr. Robertson's method and capacity but in no way supplied the demand for the complete work. Both will still be needed. The Short Grammar will be used for class room work with students in the earlier stages of New Testament study, while for advanced students and for all technical work the new book will be in demand.

All who are at all competent to judge will congratulate Dr. Robertson on the completion of so great a task after a full quar-

ter of a century of labor, not chiefly because in it a great ambition is realized but because in it the world of New Testament scholarship has a treasury of most useful knowledge in usable form.

A word must be added about the price of the book. It sells for five dollars and the buyer pays carriage charges. The cost of the first edition would indicate a price of not less than twelve and a half dollars a volume. As books are usually sold it would be even more than that. Such a price would greatly have reduced the usefulness of the book by limiting its sale. The present price is made possible by a plan of endowment which is partly explained in the *preface* of the book. What will not appear to all in that explanation is that the conditions of this endowment, and the price of the book, leave no expectation that the author will himself ever profit a penny by the sale of this which a German friend so well styles his *opus magnum, Jupiter, et laboriosum*. For Dr. Robertson it is a labor of love and a contribution to Christian learning. Well may we expect it to prove a monument of enduring honor.

W. O. CARVER.

The Historical Christ; or An Investigation of the Views of Mr. J. M. Robertson, Dr. A. Drews, and Prof. W. B. Smith. By Fred C. Conybeare, F.B.A. The Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill., 1914. 235 pp.

Mr. Conybeare is one of the leading rationalists in England. He is a scholar of real ability, though a thorough-going sceptic. He rejects all the Gospels tell about the words and works of Jesus as mere legends, but he at least believes that Jesus lived. He feels called upon to expose the fallacies of the small group of men who have made a deal of noise on the notion that Jesus never lived at all, but is a mere myth, a Persian sun-god. He is merciless in his riddling of the follies and inconsistencies of Drews of Germany, Robertson of England, and Smith of America. One can see also that it will not be hard to turn upon Conybeare and show how his admissions about Jesus call for more, but he is apparently set in his rationalism.

A. T. ROBERTSON.