

BOOK REVIEWS

I. BIBLICAL.

Peake's Commentary on the Bible. New York, Thomas Nelson & Sons. London, T. C. & E. C. Jack, Limited, 1920. pp. 1,014. \$4.00 net.

This is a new and notable commentary on the whole Bible in one volume. It is edited by Arthur S. Peake, M. A., D. D., Professor of Biblical Exegesis in the University of Manchester, England, with the assistance for the New Testament of Principal A. J. Grieve, M. A., D. D., of the Congregational Hall, Edinburgh. A staff of sixty-one contributors imparts to it certain special features of value and attractiveness which make the volume, indeed, a complete companion to the Bible, with over one thousand double column pages and with maps, full index, bibliographies, etc. It is a careful and candid attempt to set forth the present results of intensive modern Biblical study. Each of the sixty-six portions of our sacred book is dealt with by some independent, reverent and constructive scholar. Three general articles deal with the nature and significance of Scripture, the literary characteristics of the Bible and the Holy Land. The rest are so arranged that first the languages, the collection of the books into a sacred canon, the restoration of the text and the historical development of the literature are described. Then follows history, not of Israel or of the Church only, but of the world in which they were placed. A special value of the book is its emphasis upon Biblical Introduction, that is the explanation of each book as a whole, the questions of time, occasion, authorship and purpose. More than ever the serious reader today desires to deal with the individual books of the Bible in their entirety—who wrote them, when, why, etc. About these and kindred questions there has sprung up a vast and valuable

literature which is in a degree drawn upon and here made available. The supreme value of this, as of all such books, lies in the help it gives us to a fuller appreciation of how God's revelation through Israel advanced to its culmination and fulfillment in the Cross of Jesus Christ. He purposed the consummation that came through the Cross. Dr. Stryker seems justified in saying in the introduction: "Who studies this commentary must be grateful for the devout scholarship which makes possible a much widened view of the records which Divine Mercy has provided for the confirmation of intelligent faith."

GEO. B. EAGER.

The Pharisees and Jesus. The Stone Lectures for 1915-16, Delivered at the Princeton Theological Seminary. By A. T. Robertson, A. M., D. D., LL. D., D. Litt., Professor of Interpretation of the New Testament in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, author of "A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research," "Epochs in the Life of Jesus," etc. New York, 1920. Charles Scribner's Sons. 189 pp. \$1.75.

Many thousands of Dr. Robertson's students remember his vivid characterization and resentment of the Pharisees as one of the most impressive and abiding features of his often dramatic instruction. They will be glad in this volume to be able to study these truly remarkable religious leaders with a thoroughness not possible in the Seminary classes and in the light of exhaustive research and the widest examination of the now voluminous literature dealing with this sect—certainly one of the most notable sects ever produced by any religion.

There is an extensive controversy among modern scholars over the Pharisees ranging all the way from almost unqualified praise for them as teachers of religion and ethics to extreme denunciation of them as unmitigated hypocrites. Dr. Robertson has taken account of all this and has maintained a good balance all the way.