

The alert reader has already discovered that supernatural revelation is set aside in the interest of the peculiar genius of the Hebrew people. The author is perfectly frank in avowing his naturalistic assumptions, for he remarks "even where our material is insufficient for following this evolution in detail, we must nevertheless assume such evolution or involve ourselves in hopeless difficulties from which we can extract ourselves only by sophistry or by some other form of vicious reasoning." Dr. Jastrow recognizes a wide difference in the final form of Hebrew and Babylonian beliefs. He accounts for the differences without calling in the factor of supernatural revelation. It seems to the present reviewer that the most potent and significant factor in Israel's religious history is thus ignored. Evolution fails to explain Jesus, and it cannot wholly explain Moses and Isaiah.

Dr. Jastrow is one of the foremost scholars of the world in all that concerns Babylonian civilization. His treatment of the relation of Babylonian beliefs to Hebrew beliefs is exceedingly interesting.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

**An Interpretation of the English Bible.** By B. H. Carroll, D.D., LL.D., President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Edited by J. B. Cranfill, LL.D., New York, 1913 and 1914, Fleming H. Revell Company. **The Book of Genesis;** 451 pp. \$2.25 net. **The Books of Exodus and Leviticus;** 468 pp. \$2.25 net. **The Books of Numbers to Ruth;** 320 pp. \$2.25 net.

Dr. Carroll has been for more than thirty years one of the outstanding figures among Southern Baptists. He is known far and wide as a great preacher and platform speaker. In recent years he has given himself to the teaching of the English Bible in the Southwestern Seminary. His method is unique. He lectures before his class in the English Bible, taking the text up chapter by chapter and sometimes verse by verse, and gives to the students his own interpretation of the passage under consideration. He puts at the end of each lecture a list of questions on the sections gone over. There is a great variety in the style of the lectures; sometimes the manner is familiar and con-

versational, with free use of the colloquial; at other times the speaker's soul takes fire and he rises into the realm of genuine eloquence, some of his periods reminding one of Milton or of Burke. Dr. Carroll gathers illustrations from his wide acquaintance with English literature. He often refers to incidents in his own ministerial experience. Everywhere his aim is to bring the Scriptures into vital touch with his hearers and readers.

The plain man can understand Dr. Carroll, and the lectures are meant to be helpful to plain people. If one wishes to study modern criticism, he must look elsewhere. Green, Orr and Driver discuss the critical questions with fullness; Dr. Carroll prefers to give his own understanding of the meaning of the Scriptures, with occasional notice of the more popular objections to the truth of the Bible. Dr. Cranfill is an enthusiastic editor.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

**The Old Testament in Life and Literature.** By Jane T. Stoddart. New York, 1913. Hodder and Stoughton. 512 pages.

The following sentences from the Preface will explain the purpose and nature of this interesting compilation of references to the Old Testament. "This work, in its general outline, was suggested to me some years ago by Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, and it owes very much to his help and guidance. His idea was that nothing should be borrowed from anthologies, compilations, or homiletic literature, but that an entirely new book should be built up from my private reading, with a narrative connecting as far as possible the passages of Scripture illustrated." The outcome is a very interesting book with quotations for all sorts of Bible readers. The preacher can here find fresh illustrations for his sermons.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

**The Beacon Lights of Prophecy. An Interpretation of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Deutero-Isaiah.** By Albert C. Knudson, Professor in Boston University School of Theology. New York, 1914, Eaton and Mains. 281 pages. \$1.25 net.