

BOOK REVIEWS

I. BIBLICAL LITERATURE

1. NEW TESTAMENT.

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia. Rev. Prof. James Orr, M.A., D.D., General Editor. The Howard Severance Co., Chicago, Five Volumes. 3,556 pp. Buckram Cloth. \$30.00. 1915.

It is a difficult matter to write an adequate review of this really remarkable production. One may say that there is already a surfeit of Bible dictionaries. That is true as to the single volume dictionaries of which there are at least a half dozen, comparatively new ones. But of the larger and complete sets there were only two that at all met the demands of modern scholarship, Cheyne's *Encyclopedia Biblica* and Hastings's *Dictionary of the Bible*. The work of Cheyne has articles of great ability, but is avowedly the exponent of extreme destructive criticism and contains many articles of the wildest speculation. The vagaries of Cheyne about Jerahmeel, of Schmiedel about Jesus, and of Van Manen about Paul, to go no further, vitiate the work for serious students and scholars. The work of Hastings is far more sane and reliable, and has won a deservedly high place in the English-speaking world, the foremost place in fact. And yet, Vol. I bears the date 1899, seventeen years ago, and much water has run under the mill since then. Many new questions in criticism have arisen. Much new light has been turned on this subject or on that. The criticism of the Old Testament has entered upon a new phase and it is even more true of the New Testament. There cannot be a "final" Bible dictionary, if one is to take note of new knowledge. I am not saying that the great work of Hastings is now out of date, but simply that there is room for newer handling of present-day knowledge from a slightly different angle.

This Encyclopedia is the crowning achievement of Dr. Orr's career. He planned it, selected the writers (some 200), wrote a large number of the most important articles (like Bible, Christianity, Commentaries, Criticism, God the Father, Hell, Jesus Christ, Punishment, Revelation of John, etc), and saw the work practically complete before his death. The work inevitably reflects the general critical attitude of Dr. Orr as the Hastings DB., reflects that of Dr. Hastings, though in both instances full liberty seems to have been granted the writers of articles. Dr. Orr had as Assistant Editors in an advisory capacity Bishop John L. Nuelser and President E. Y. Mullins, both of whom wrote important articles. The Managing Editor, who supervised the multitude of details with great ability, is Rev. M. O. Evans, Ph.D., of Norwood, Ohio, a Welsh Congregationalist minister of rare critical acumen.

The mechanical work is attractively done. The printed page is the same size as the Hastings DB., but the margin is wider and the pages lie open easily. The print is excellent and the paper is much thinner than the Hastings and hence the volumes are lighter. Besides the buckram cloth, there are other more expensive bindings in Morocco, etc.

The writers are about half American and Canadian, the other half being European, Asiatic, etc. Many new writers come forward, but the great majority are the names of well-known scholars like Archibald Alexander, F. L. Anderson, S. Angus, W. P. Armstrong, E. J. Banks, H. Bavinck, W. S. Caldecott, W. M. Calder, A. T. Clay, C. M. Coburn, C. R. Conder, to go no further. Men of all lands contribute and the work covers a wider range of topics than ever before included in a Bible dictionary.

The series of indexes and maps is very fine indeed. I can testify from actual use of the set for a couple of months that I have found it very useful and helpful in some points where I failed to get help elsewhere.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

Dictionary of the Apostolic Church. Vol. I. Aaron-Lystra. James Hastings, D.D., Editor, with the Assistance of John A. Selbie, D.D., and John C. Lambert, D.D. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1916. 729 pp. \$6.00 per volume, net. Sold by Subscription Only.