

The prompt mention in our list of "Books of the Week" will be considered by us an equivalent to their publishers for all volumes received. The interests of our readers will guide us in the selection of works for further notice.

PROFESSOR H. B. SMITH'S APOLOGETICS.*

PROFESSOR SMITH was an acknowledged master of Christian Apologetics. Not only his personal friends, who were and are a host, but the friends of revealed religion, may well rejoice in the publication of what he left behind him on that subject. This has been done in the work named above, edited by William S. Karr, D.D., professor in the Hartford Theological Seminary. The condition of Professor Smith's lectures made considerable editorial work necessary. This has been done, however, with great regard to the author and with the least possible change or addition. No attempt has been made to relieve the occasional fragmentary character of the lectures by introducing extracts from other lectures by the same author, nor by filling in with editorial expositions of his supposed opinions. As they stand, the lectures have a high and altogether sufficient value. They cover the whole ground of Christian apologetics, from the definition of the question and the elements of the discussion down to the recent phases of the subject. The outline of a proposed lecture on Evolution is appended.

Dr. Smith was richly endowed by Nature and exceptionally qualified by study for such a work as this. He shows on every page the thorough habits he acquired in Germany, combined with a certain freshness and freedom which we cherish the fond hope of seeing recognized as one of the specially fine and characteristic qualities of American theological scholarship. The little volume is a mass of well-reasoned propositions and suggestions, put together in a logical *catena*, and well calculated to support and guide a student in the most comprehensive and exhaustive possible review of the evidences of Christianity. They are not confined to the presentation of positive evidence; but discuss negative and contradictory theories, subjecting them to patient and rigorous analysis and conscientiously taking what space is required to set forth in brief but sufficiently full propositions the substance of every position, both in the attack and the defense of Christianity. For a vigorous mind, which loves to do its own thinking, nothing can be more exhilarating nor more satisfactory than to wrestle with such a subject in the guidance of such a book, and to come out, at last, not with the feeling that a good book has been read or studied, but that the greatest of all themes has been thought through.

This is a book to be read with rigorous attention to words, or otherwise the author will prove a bad guide. For example, on p. 55 he remarks "universally applied, the 'inductive method' must be atheistic"—a very mischievous proposition if the words "universally applied" are overlooked, but which is not designed to assert the irreligious tendency of inductive reasoning within the sphere of sensible phenomena to which it applies. It is, perhaps, a necessary but real defect of the lectures that the method adopted in them requires more caution of this kind in the use of them than is to be expected of ordinary students. Considering the importance now given to the "inductive method" of reasoning, we could wish that the position of the author, which is in itself all that can be desired, were defined fully enough to show not only the limitations of the "inductive method," but how it is brought into needless conflict with religious philosophy and how little ground there is to apprehend evil from its legitimate application.

As to "Evolution," which is treated in a special appendix, Professor Smith assumes very much the position we do; very much the same position he had already assumed toward the "inductive method." He believes, as we hold any man with an open mind must, in a Christian doctrine of evo-

lution. He attempts, however, to fix boundaries beyond which it cannot pass. We disagree with him here; not because we assume that these boundaries have, in fact, been passed, but because, while we do not venture to fix the boundaries of possibility in such matters, we find assurance in the certainty that the utmost limit of the possible can never invade nor lay waste the realm of spiritual life and truth.

Still Professor Smith's remarks are admirable. We owe his memory, at least, the recognition of one extract (p. 174). "There are some who, if a Christian utters the word evolution, accuse him of playing into the hands of the infidel and the atheist. Those Evolutionists who are not Christians just want Christians to say that *all* evolution undermines the Bible and that *every* form of Darwinism is Atheism. [Hear! hear!] But to say that species are entirely arbitrary, that there is no sort of physical connection or descent between them is to advance a purely scientific, not a religious or Christian theory. [Hear! hear!] . . . We are not to deny continuity of growth, as far as shown. We are to consider that it is *not shown* [that is, has *not yet been shown*] at the great joints and crises—that is, between atoms and primordial forces, between life and mechanics, between the soul and the vegetable, between man and the animal; but even at these crises [Hear! hear!] we are not to deny the *use* of the antecedent in the new. 'The Lord God formed man out of the *dust of the ground*.' We are to assert that all the mechanical laws are in vital products; and, more, all the animal in man; and, more, all of man in history; and more. And the question is: 'Whence and what this more?'" Bravely and truly said, every word of it!

In justice to the editor, we should add that his work has been scrupulously and well done. We are glad to observe that there is some reason to hope that the outlines of Professor Smith's theological system will be published at no very distant day.

* APOLOGETICS. A COURSE OF LECTURES. By HENRY B. SMITH, D.D., LL.D. Edited by WILLIAM S. KARR, D.D., professor in the Hartford Theological Seminary. A. C. Armstrong & Son. 12mo, pp. ix, 194.