

The Late Professor Otto Pfeiderer.

IN THE death of Professor Pfeiderer the religious world suffers an irreparable loss. He was a master thinker who, possessing all the German scholar's untiring industry and passion for truth, did as much as, and perhaps more for the cause of sound religious criticism, than any religious thinker of our time. Two of his distinctly great works, *Christian Origins* and *Religion and Historic Faiths*, have been reviewed at length in earlier issues of THE ARENA. A third volume, entitled *The Development of Christianity*, is, we understand, now in press and will prove one of the most important religious publications of the autumn on this side of the Atlantic.

Two Notable Ethical Plays.

WHILE the stage will doubtless long be largely given over to trashy productions and spectacular extravaganzas that can make no pretensions to worth either from a literary, dramatic or ethical view-point, it is highly encouraging to note the number of plays of real merit that have recently scored unmistakable successes.

From the moral point of view, the two most notable recent dramatic productions are *The Servant in the House* and *The Devil*. In one play the dominant spirit in the home is that of the Christ; in the other, it is the devil. Each drama carries a strong moral. THE ARENA will shortly present illustrated critical papers on each of these reigning dramatic successes.

Ernest C. Moses.

ERNEST C. MOSES, who in this issue of THE ARENA contributes an interesting and suggestive paper on "The Religion of Benjamin Franklin," besides being a well-known Chicago business man, has been a frequent contributor to the magazine and periodical press, writing important articles for such publications as *The World To-Day*, *The Engineering Review*, *House and Garden*, *The Christian Science Journal*, and *The Syracuse Journal*. He at the present time occupies the position of First Reader in the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist, of Chicago, Illinois.