

Of the long expected Hebrew-Aramaic lexicon to the Old Testament, in preparation by Dr. Friedrich Delitzsch, the Prolegomena have at length appeared, under the title "*Prolegomena eines neuen Hebräisch-Aramäischen Wörterbuchs zum Alten Testament.*" It is published by Hinrichs, at Leipzig, and costs about three dollars in America. As a treatise by itself it is no mean work, and while indispensable to those who wish to keep up with the times in such studies, it will be valued by every Bible student. Every one knows that the Assyrian discoveries have revolu-

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tionized a vast deal of the Hebrew lexicography and etymology, though the results are to be sought only in scattered publications, and even so not to be found within the compass of the literature of any one land or language. This Prolegomena gives a pretty solid foretaste of what we may expect when the Lexicon itself gets into print, and groups together much more useful matter than appears in the author's "Hebrew Language," published a year or more since. The Prolegomena fills 218 octavo pages, of which six are verbal indexes, with a short table of errata. The rest is divided into six chapters, treating respectively of Externals, as form and arrangement; the Hebrew in relation to the other Semitic tongues; the importance of the Assyrian in Hebrew philosophy; the Semitic phonetic laws; the theory of roots, and the Hebrew proper names. With the first chapter, which treats mainly of the arrangement of words in the lexicon, and discussions about the separating from the body of the work the Aramaic words and the proper names, about the German-Hebrew index, and about the arrangement according to stems, and not strictly alphabetical, the technical student will be the one most interested; since the beginner will be more interested about the fact of the arrangement than about the reasons therefor. But the section on the author's "Notes" will be read with interest; for they show that he intends to make the body of the lexicon a lexicon proper, and separate the discussions of difficult or contested points so that they may be consulted apart. The chapter on the Hebrew, in its relations to other tongues, is a learned exposition of what the Semitic scholars have learned during the last thirty years from the Phœnician, the Assyrian, etc., about the relative value of the north and south Semitic tongues in elucidating the Hebrew, and does much to free Hebrew scholars from the tyranny of those teachers and lexicographers who have insisted that Arabic was the all-in-all for solving knotty points in Hebrew. This chapter contains no little of the polemic, but less than the following chapters. In the section "Hebrew and Aramaic" is given an instructive list of words where Hebrew and Aramaic are almost identical; and showing that Aramaic is a better aid to Hebrew lexicography than the Arabic or Ethiopic. A like service is rendered, in the same chapter, with reference to the Assyrian, in the section "Hebrew and Assyrian." But the great and brilliant, and doubtless the newest and most useful part of the Prolegomena is the chapter on "the importance of the Assyrian for Hebrew word-investigation."

The weight of this chapter lies in three of its sections—viz., those that treat, respectively, of the signification of Hebrew word-stems and words of infrequent occurrence, especially of those occurring but once; the explanation of the ground-meaning of Hebrew stems; and the development of Hebrew stems as such. This section is necessarily brimful of examples, many of which may be seen in the author's "Hebrew Language," though here there are many more. It likewise deals with many learned criticisms made upon that book in various periodicals, and generally with much power and effect. This chapter alone is a contribution to Hebrew lexicography and philology which must be called invaluable; and the light it throws upon many biblical passages is immense. This section fills 106 pages; and upon almost every page a number of words are commented upon and explained in the Assyrian light; and in the majority of cases conviction absolute follows the reading. If the Lexicon itself proves throughout to be compiled with as much coolness, keenness, and sagacity, it will at once displace the manuals of Mùhlau and Volck. At least, it shows an exceeding great number in which those editors have turned aside from the true light. The chapter on phonetics is not so new or original, and has little interest for the Hebrew beginners, though it could not well have been omitted. The chapter on the root theory contains, among other matters, a strong polemical argument against the advocates of the bilateral root theory, in which the author will have an easier task against the Semitic scholars than against the Egyptologists. The chapter on the Hebrew proper names, except in the matter-of-course information, derives most of its strength from Assyrian and Babylonian sources. Matters which might have been grouped in this chapter appear somewhat in the other section of the work; but everywhere they are characterized by soundness, and the rejection of the puerile fancies that have disfigured far too many of our glossaries and concordances. Besides being a book of learning, it is one of extreme good faith. Even in the polemical it generally obtains from the horse-play which distinguishes so much of the German heartiness in things of the sort. When the matter of this Prolegomena runs parallel with that of the author's "Hebrew language," it is not a mere repetition; but generally ampler, though a trifle more technical. It is to be hoped that the body of the Lexicon will soon follow; but as it is, with the help of its verbal indexes at the end, the Prolegomena can be used as a manual, and thus made to supplement most efficiently the Hebrew lexicons at present in use. It is quite abreast of the Semitic literature

of the day, whether books or periodicals. Nothing in Germany, England, or France has escaped the author's notice.