

AMONG THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS

"THE RELIGION OF WISE MEN" (Doran) is a frank discussion of the essentials of a universal religion. The author, George Frederick Wates, approaches his subject from the standpoint of universality, contending that no religion can be ultimately satisfactory that is not capable of becoming universal. A brief survey is given of the growth and present condition of Christianity, to show that both history and experience support the author's view. Minds that find satisfaction in perfect freedom of discussion in matters religious will welcome this unprejudiced plea for a universal religion.

"Borrowed Axes and Other Sermons" (Judson) is the Reverend Dr. Russell H. Conwell's contribution to the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the American Baptist Publication Society. These sermons are not theological studies, "there is nothing startling in them nor anything especially original". They are simply the outpourings of a soul full of the practical social concern of the Gospel.

William Jennings Bryan's famous Bible Talks at Miami, Florida, and at other gatherings of Christian workers have aroused a widespread public interest. Most of these studies are brought together in book form in **"Famous Figures of the Old Testament"** (Revell). These sketches are masterpieces of character delineation. They are deft, just, and discriminating, and will furnish Sunday reading for Christians of all ages.

"Studies of Familiar Hymns" (Westminster), second series, is a continuation of an earlier series by

Dr. Louis F. Benson. The hymns are selected and arranged in historical succession and in each is plainly shown the close association of religious thought with historical development. Dr. Benson is regarded as the foremost American hymnologist. His book is therefore an authoritative volume of reference.

A revised and enlarged edition of **"Faith and Health"** (Crowell) by Dean Charles R. Brown of the Divinity School, Yale University, has recently been issued. Its appearance is very timely because M. Coué, the latest apostle of healing, has just visited this country. The relation of spiritual faith to bodily health is discussed. First, there is an analysis of Christ's method of healing the sick. Next, Dr. Brown takes up the **"Modern Faith Cures"** from the Roman Catholic shrines to other clinics both in and out of the Church. **"Profit and Loss in Christian Science"** is the third chapter. Then follow sections on **"The Emmanuel Movement"**, **"The Method of Coué"**, etc. It is altogether an intensely forceful and discerning book.

In **"The Bible versus the Secretary"** (Stratford) Reverend Franklin M. Sprague refutes a series of articles written by the Secretary of the Education Society of a leading denomination. Reverend Sprague discusses chiefly the internal evidence of the truth or falsity of the Bible. The Secretary tries to show that the Bible "teaches outrageous thoughts in direct contradiction to the spirit and teachings of Jesus". The author seeks to prove that the Bible always teaches the truth and thereby verifies itself.

—E. E. F.