

MISCELLANEOUS

Saint Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians. The Greek Text with Introduction and Notes.
By GEORGE MILLIGAN, D.D. 8vo, pp. cx, 195. New York: The Macmillan Company.
Price, cloth, \$2.60, net.

THIS Commentary of Dr. George Milligan belongs to the same class as those of the master exegetes, Bishop Lightfoot and Professor Swete. Its author has followed the best traditions of his school and at the same time adopted the best improvements of the new time. Since all lasting exegesis and exposition rests upon correct interpretation of the text, much

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work of the earlier commentators has to be revised in the light of the discoveries recently made as to the nature and dignity of vernacular Greek during the first Christian centuries. It is a sober fact that the papyrus heaps of Egypt have caused the rewriting of New Testament Grammar. Then, again, the splendid advance gained in the truer knowledge of the life and institutions of the Greek provinces of the Roman empire adds another source of illumination to the meaning of many New Testament references and events. This is peculiarly true of the writings of Paul and of John addressed to churches bordering upon the Aegean Sea. One other source of distinct progress in the field of correct interpretation is found in the group of both Hebrew and Christian writings known as Apocalyptic. Now, the first New Testament epistles from the mind of Paul were those to the Thessalonian church, and it so happens that their peculiar and most difficult theme is Apocalyptic. At the same time Dr. Milligan shows that the character of the final solution of the problem involved is not a little dependent upon the latest discoveries both of a linguistic and historical nature. With great thoroughness he takes up all the factors involved, both new and old, and it is not too much to say that in this latest Commentary on First and Second Thessalonians, we have a scholarly and timely treatment of their problems at once worthy and satisfying.

A Short Grammar of the Greek New Testament. By A. T. ROBERTSON, A.M., D.D., Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. 8vo, pp. xxx, 240. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Price, cloth, \$1.50.

A GRAMMAR of the Greek New Testament, such as is here given to the world by Professor Robertson, is extremely timely and fills a want which all teachers and students of the Greek Testament have felt for more than a decade. The author rightly claims that Deissmann and Moulton have inaugurated a new era in New Testament grammatical study. The combined results of the modern and scientific research in the field of comparative grammar, of the vernacular Greek of the first century, A. D., in connection with that of today and of the recent decipherment of quantities of later Greek inscriptions, ostraea and papyri, have thrown a deal of valuable light upon the whole subject of the common dialect, so-called, and upon the language of the Septuagint Old Testament and the Greek New Testament. Seminary students in particular have long needed a much briefer handbook than Winer, and now even Winer has to be rewritten, so that they are especially grateful for this shorter and fresher treatise. We venture to suggest that in the next edition the work might be improved by a little fuller treatment in the chapters on "Moods and Tenses" after the character of that given in Professor Burton's admirable book, and that the context of the illustrative words and phrases be more fully given. In other words, we feel that this grammar is a trifle too short to adequately fill the need for an intermediate work.