

RELIGION AND THEOLOGY.

Expositions. By the Rev. Samuel Cox, D. D.
[Thomas Whittaker. \$2.25.]

Apostolic Life as Revealed in the Acts of the Apostles. By Joseph Parker, D. D. Volume III.
[Funk & Wagnalls.]

An Order of Worship, with Forms of Prayer for Divine Service. By Benjamin B. Comegys.
[Philadelphia: H. B. Garner.]

Why we Believe the Bible. By J. P. T. Ingraham, S.T.D. [D. Appleton & Co. 60c.]

Revelation Universal and Special. By the Rev. William W. Olssen, S.T.D. [Thomas Whittaker.]

After ten years of faithful and effective service as the first editor of the *Expositor*, Dr. Samuel Cox was last year relieved of his charge because of his broad views in biblical criticism and eschatology. Many readers, however, had become indebted to him for his clear, careful, candid, and sympathetic studies of the Scriptures, and urged him to continue his work under different connections. In answer to this call, a new volume of *Expositions* has been published, and, if a sufficiently favorable reception is accorded it, other volumes are promised in successive years. Under the circumstances, it is not strange that many of the papers herein presented are devoted to questions of eschatology,

and the temper and tone of these are calm and sober, whatever may be thought of the conclusions reached. Dr. Cox does not shrink from the sternest and most terrible passages in the Bible, and insists on the necessity of punishment, while he holds fast the larger hope of its final outcome of good for all the race. "The Law of Retribution," "Forgiveness Not Impunity," "Destruction from the Face of the Lord," are some of his titles, and the two sermons on "The Son of Loss, Judas Iscariot," are among the most striking, but not the strongest, in the collection. Of a different cast, "The Divine Root of the Human Pedigree," "The Prayer of the Remnant," and "The Children of Wrath," are especially noteworthy for depth of feeling and suggestiveness. The last named, above all, presents a familiar passage in a new and it must be confessed extremely reasonable light.

The third and closing volume of Dr. Parker's *Apostolic Life* includes a running comment on the last nine chapters of the Acts, with six supplementary discourses upon apostolic and especially Petrine conceptions of Christ and the Christian life. The characteristic traits of the preacher—insight and sympathy, incisiveness and force—are everywhere apparent alike in the expositions and in the prayers which precede the discourses.

Mr. Comegys, a banker of Philadelphia, has compiled an *Order of Worship*, chiefly from the service books of the English, Scotch, and Huguenot churches. It contains a series of morning and evening services for ten Sundays, besides the necessary forms of special ministration. The compiler has done his work with reverence, judgment, and good taste, and his little book will be helpful to preachers who would widen and deepen their methods and spirit of worship, as well as to laymen upon whom the charge of public service at times devolves.

A simple, straightforward, and concise explanation of the claims of the Bible, and of the grounds on which Christians accept these, is always timely and useful. Dr. Ingraham's little book, *Why we Believe the Bible*, has this aim, and in good degree serves this end. It contains a rapid but orderly discussion of the nature, probability, and need of a revelation, the contents and formation of the twofold canon, the language, authorship, purpose, and preservation of its parts, and the arguments and answers by which objections are met, and the position of the Bible supported. Some of the author's statements are too positive and sweeping, as, for instance, his fixing an exact date, B. C. 292, for the completion of the Hebrew Canon, and his assertion that the Apocrypha was not written in Hebrew, or his rendering of a phrase in Virgil's famous Eclogue by the words "blot out our sins." But these defects are not vital, and his grasp of the central and connected truths of the Scriptures is firm and careful. As an "hour's reading for busy people," we wish the book a large success.

In his thoughtful volume on *Revelation, Universal and Special*, Dr. Olssen goes behind the usual methods of evidence, both external and internal, to find a deeper and broader basis for the authority of the Bible. Revelation he defines as any direct disclosure by God of moral and religious truths which men could not discover, whether silently impressed on the individual spirit, or transmitted through others by

speech or in written forms. This definition itself divides the subject into universal and special, and then into oral and written, revelation. The broader, deeper basis which he seeks is found in intuition, which he makes the basis not only of all duty, personal, social, or moral, but even of much that is called instinct in the animal world. To this he traces back the first phases of religious belief, the idea of a spiritual world, the desire for spiritual sympathy, the dread of hostile spirits, the thought of immortality, and by this he explains inherited dogma, both social, intellectual, and religious. On the same foundation of intuition, he rests the claims of special revelation, both subjective and objective. The analogy of nature serves as an illustration and confirmation of its methods, and the term is made broad enough to cover the divine ordering of national and race peculiarities to definite and distinct ends. The character and attestation of unwritten and written revelation, with the revelation of each to the human medium and the laws of growth and development, are wisely and fully treated. Illustration and proof are drawn from a wide range of sources, and the author's breadth of view and candor of spirit are noteworthy. The one jarring note is a sweeping denunciation of the distinction between the Bible as the Word of God, and as containing the Word of God, as "utterly inconsistent and illogical."

The Rev. J. W. Kramer's pamphlet, entitled *Religion; Instruction for Children and Youth*, is designed as an aid in preparing children and youth for confirmation, and follows the course of the catechism in the Prayer Book with instructive comment. [Whittaker. 20 cents.] *In His Steps*, by the Rev. J. R. Miller, of Philadelphia, contains a series of plain, practical, wholesome talks upon the temptations, dangers, habits, and needs of the young Christian, and will be found a welcome help to many pastors; *Our Pit and Our Rock*, the opening sermon before the last General Assembly, by the Rev. G. P. Hays, D. D., of Denver, Colorado, is a plea for modern missions based on the debt of the modern church to ancient missions; and *The Story of the Bohemian Church*, by Prof. W. G. Blaikie, D. D., LL. D., with a special bearing upon the present condition and needs of Christianity in that country. [Presbyterian Board.]