

The Theology of the Old Testament. By the late A. B. Davidson, D.D., LL.D., Litt D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.50.

This treatise in Old Testament Theology was compiled by Principal Salmon from the manuscripts left by Dr. Davidson. It is not such a work as ought to be associated with the name of the great Scotch teacher of Hebrew. The book he intended is suggested on page 11: "We do not find a *theology* in the Old Testament; we find a *religion*—religious conceptions and religious hopes and aspirations. It is we ourselves that create the theology when we give to these religious ideas a systematic or orderly form. Hence our subject is really the History of the Religion of Israel as represented in the Old Testament." But the editor has not followed the historical method in arranging the notes left by Dr. Davidson: he has used instead the familiar divisions of Systematic Theology, the Doctrine of God, the Doctrine of Man, etc. This cannot have been the Old Testament Theology intended by Dr. Davidson when he wrote the introduction from which we have quoted. Nevertheless, the book contains much good material and is of real value. Davidson was a fair, open-minded, thorough, cautious and devout scholar, and his comments on Hebrew religion here preserved are discriminating and enlightening. It is much to be regretted that he who wrote so well of many features of Hebrew religion did not live to arrange his results in the proper historical framework, and to sketch the whole in the clear, bold lines in which he has drawn many of the parts. It is interesting to note the change of opinion in what were evidently different strata of the manuscript: on page 98 Abraham is historic, but in the note on page 31

the legendary character of Genesis is
assumed.

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