

commend itself to every student of history. Its application to the treatment of this difficult subject is both sane and commendable. The author has quoted in the language of the Revised Version large portions of the text of the prophecies termed Messianic, and has added thereto his luminous interpretation of the same. The discriminating scholarship, the fitting proportions, and the sanity of interpretation give this book a prominent place among the works on biblical theology.

*A popular
mushroom book.*

Popular interest in mushrooms, for both scientific and practical reasons, has grown considerably of recent years, and the latest contribution to the literature of this subject will be sure to find a receptive audience. Miss Nina L. Marshall is the author of "The Mushroom Book" now before us, which is published by Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co. in their nature study series, which already contains books on butterflies, birds, and flowers. The special feature of all these books is that, although they are richly illustrated, they are sold at a very moderate price. The colored plates alone, twenty-four in number, would justify the price set upon the book, to say nothing of the numerous plates in black-and-white, the still more numerous cuts in the text, and the text itself. The book may be recommended as a safe guide for the identification of species by amateurs who have only a smattering of botanical method. The descriptions are accurate, and not more technical than is absolutely necessary. There are also directions for collecting and preserving specimens, and for cooking them as well — which consideration will perhaps go farther than any other toward finding purchasers for the volume. It offers what is practically an equivalent of Hamilton Gibson's work for a small fraction of its price. We need say no more than this to lovers of mushrooms, whether as articles of food or as objects of scientific

*Israel's hope
for the future.*

The layman in biblical study has shown slight interest in Messianic prophecy. This has been due (1) to the general obscurity of the subject and (2) to the lack of any adequate popular discussion of the theme. Professor G. S. Goodspeed's "Israel's Messianic Hope" (Macmillan) is intended to dissipate both of these difficulties. It is intended primarily for the reader of the English Bible. For this reason technical questions in criticism and exegesis and Hebrew and Greek words are avoided. But not to neglect the advanced student, the author has provided liberal references to the best new literature on the subject, and has added to the volume a selected bibliography. Now the method of Professor Goodspeed is just that which will appeal to the popular reader. He has adopted, in preference to the so-called "fulfilment" or "theological" method, the historical plan of treatment. That is, he "takes up the ancient Hebrew literature from the point of view of the historical origin and environment of its various writings. The history is studied from the Hebrew side; the ideas are investigated as they grow out of the history, and are modified or conditioned by it. The question asked is, not so much, What did this statement mean to the Christian Church? but, What did it mean to him who first uttered it, and to those by whom it was first heard or read?" This method cannot but

*Two volumes on
medieval towns.*

Two volumes come together in the "Mediæval Towns" series (Dent-Macmillan), one dealing with Florence and one with Constantinople. The former is done with loving care by Mr. Edmund G. Gardner, who combines the various artistic forces of the Florentine Republic in his pages in such a way as to give it a really fine literary flavor. All the glories of poetry, painting, sculpture, and architecture that made the city splendid to the eye and ear and understanding speak again through his pages, an achievement by no means unique, the city having the gift of inspiring its modern chroniclers to an unusual degree. The history of this flower of the renaissance before the day of Dante is dismissed in a single chapter, and the story of the government carried down to the great Duke Cosimo. This, with a consideration of the Florentine people, suffices for the more formal history, the other portions of the book taking up the geographical divisions of Florence, and combining all their interests in a nar-

rative which serves as a guide-book through its particularity, and as an account for instruction and amusement as well. A number of pictures from the hand of Miss Nellie Erichsen are included, and with these are several reproductions of old engravings of the town and its distinctive features. The work on Constantinople has been done by the Rev. William Holden Hutton, and its interest is made classic in a degree. Though not so large a book as the other, it covers more space, the opening chapter alone carrying the story from old Byzantium to the Turks. In the subsequent divisions of the book, dealing, as in the former case, with geographical portions of the ancient seat of empire, the interest is divided between the Christian and Moslem relics, with a natural leaning toward the older Greek rather than the newer Turk, the churches rather than the mosques. A final chapter deals with the pre-Christian life of the city as shown in architectural and other relics, and is by no means the least readable of the seven.

*A narrative of
American society.*

Not a romance, though a tenuous love story rises almost to the surface now and again through the book, not a novel, though there are developments which almost make it one in successive pages, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's "Dr. North and His Friends" (Century Co.) is none the less interesting because it is difficult of classification. In its book form it is considerably larger than in its appearance as a serial, and the increase in size is due mainly to the insertion of a number of anecdotes of men and things, which have all the charm of an acquaintance with the people of whom they speak. It may be surmised, reasonably enough, that they are the very cream of Dr. Mitchell's common-place book. Taken as a whole the story outlines the life of such Americans as all of us would like to be, did cultivation and wealth admit of it, and the pleasant company certainly sets a social ideal to which it would be well for Americans to conform. Yet it is with something of a shock that the reader comes to realize at the close of the narrative that a complete vulgarian has fairly forced the doors of this gentle and cultured society, all his too evident limitations, moral and social, being pardoned him in view of his great wealth, il-gotten though it is. That Dr. Mitchell is well within the truth in giving such an ending to such an episode does not make it any better reading, and we wish he had contrived to maintain its own ideals throughout the book.

*Religion in
the fore-castle.*

Mr. Frank T. Bullen, for literalness the best sea writer since Dana, is industriously making hay while the sun of his popularity shines. He now adds to the growing series of volumes reflecting the incidents of his seafaring career, a little book entitled "With Christ at Sea" (Stokes), and defined as "a personal record of religious experiences on board ship for fifteen years." An account of religion in the fo'c's'le

might, one would think, be almost as brief as the famous chapter on snakes in Iceland. But on Mr. Bullen's showing it seems clear that the name of his Maker is not used by "poor Jack" solely as a profane expletive and to the sorrow of the traditional "cherub who sits up aloft" and "looks out for" his ghostly interests. Mr. Bullen writes simply and earnestly, and his account of the artless piety of some of his erstwhile shipmates, and of their efforts to stem the tide of brutality, profanity, and debauchery by which the sailorman is commonly swept to moral and physical destruction, is touching and interesting. The sailor, for all his outer roughness, and proneness to coarse indulgence, is commonly an emotional man, easily touched by fervent appeal, and far more open than the sophisticated landsman, to the methods of revivalism. That these methods make for good, and even permanent good, in many cases, and are in fact the only methods by which the religious sense of large classes of men can be stirred, is certain. That a most promising and relatively neglected field for their trial is offered in every seaport town seems to us the practical moral of Mr. Bullen's book. We are not going to impugn the conduct or the wisdom of the battalions of Christian missionaries who go abroad annually with the view of persuading men to change their religions; but we do think a larger proportion of them might well halt at the seaboard in the interests of men, nominally Christian, who have in fact no religion at all. Mr. Bullen's book is graphic and well-written, and shows an unfamiliar side of seafaring life and character.

*An enjoyable book
on the garden.*

Where Miss Maud Maryon's "How the Garden Grew" (Longmans) differs from the dozen other recent garden books is in the gentle horticulturist's beginning her narrative with no knowledge whatever of what should or should not be done with plants in order to induce them to grow out of doors. She thus "starts even," as the boys say, with most of her readers, and they are enabled thereby to follow her to the end without losing sight of the garden. A little love story runs through the four chapters, which, beginning with winter, bear the names of the seasons, and there is an old English peasant named Griggs who makes the American doubly grateful for the lack of such human cattle over here. Several well-drawn illustrations make the volume more desirable; but it is to be read for enjoyment rather than instruction on this side of the great water.

*A critical
translation of
Æschylus.*

"The Oresteia of Æschylus," translated and explained by Professor George C. W. Warr, is the first of a series of four volumes which are designed to interest cultivated persons who cannot read the originals in the masterpieces of the classical drama. Thus we have, not only a translation of the great trilogy, but in addition an extensive commentary, intro-

ductory essays on "The Rise of Greek Tragedy" and "The Orestean Trilogy," and a series of illustrations reproducing ancient frescoes, reliefs, and vase-paintings. The translation is a mixture of verse and prose — verse for the dialogue, and prose for the lyrical passages. An appendix gives some metrical versions from the choruses. The translator's aim has been to steer a middle course between the insipidity of Plumptre and the uncouth literalism of Browning. His text is not exactly easy reading, but it is no more difficult than it must be, if anything of the Æschylean spirit is to be preserved. We have received this work in two editions, one from Mr. George Allen of London, and the other from Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co., who supply the trade in this country.