

OUR BOOK TABLE.

The following books can be obtained from the publishers direct, or from John P. Morton & Company, of this city. In ordering, mention the *Christian Observer*.

A TREATISE ON THE PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF SERMONS. By John A. Broadus, D. D., LL. D. Author of "A Harmony of the Gospels," etc. Edited by Edwin Charles Dargan, D. D., Professor of Homiletics in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. 8vo., pp. 562. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. \$1.75. (For sale by Chas. T. Dearing, Louisville, Ky.)

The first edition of this work was published in 1870, and it is not surprising to learn that it has passed through twenty-two editions in this country, while two separate editions have been published in England. Its usefulness has not been confined to any one denomination; it has been adopted as a text-book in Homiletics in Theological Seminaries of different denominations, and it has had a wide and useful circulation among the ministry in general. Dr. Broadus was a prince of sermonizers, and it is a subject for thankfulness that his teachings on that theme are preserved.

Dr. Dargan, who prepared this edition, was associate professor of Homiletics with Dr. Broadus in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, the last three years of his life, and in this association he became thoroughly familiar with the revision of the work which Dr. Broadus contemplated and largely prepared for. His labors on this revision will be greatly appreciated, and the work, as setting forth the latest and ripest thought of the great preacher, will be doubly valuable.

The larger divisions of the work are five: "Materials of Preaching," "Arrangement of a Sermon," "Style," "Delivery of Sermons," and "Conduct of Public Worship;" these are subdivided into chapters. Under these heads every phase of sermonizing is considered, and it is set forth in Dr. Broadus' own peculiarly simple and forceful style. In his Introduction, which is one of the most important parts of the book, he speaks of the importance, difficulties, requisites, etc., of preaching. It is characteristic of Christianity; it is the appointed means of spreading the good tidings of salvation; *printing* has become a mighty agency, but it can never take the place of the living word. He speaks of the face to face and eye to eye electric sympathies which pass between the speaker and his hearers, which suggests the importance of a minister's looking into the eyes of his hearers, and not over their heads.

"Eloquence is a serious thing," says this most eloquent of divines, and then he sums it up thus for the preacher: "Eloquence is so speaking as not merely to convince the judgment, kindle the imagination, and move the feelings, but to give a powerful impulse to the *will*. . . . The hearer must feel smitten, stirred, moved to, or towards, some action or determination to act." The requisites of effective preaching he states as four, piety, natural gifts, knowledge, skill. Piety furnishes motive power; natural gifts, cultivated, supply means; knowledge gives material; and skill, to be attained by hard study, gives the power to use, choose and arrange the materials collected.

We feel that no word of ours can give an adequate idea of the value of this book. The author's name on the title page is the best recommendation it can have. We would like to see it in the hands of all our ministers, old and young. One of the strongest characteristics of Dr. Broadus was his humility, and this was exhibited in his attitude as a *learner*—the great scholar was never too old to learn.