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Review.

The Meeting-Place of Geology and History. By Sir J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S. London: R.T.S., 1894.

ANY work by Sir J. W. Dawson is sure to be important, as it is the production of an accomplished writer, and of a most talented geologist. In the work before us the author tells us that his aim has been to give a clear account of the debatable ground between the later part of the geological record and the dawn of history, and it will be found to be full of valuable information. He commences by briefly recapitulating the course of geological history, and gives an accurate outline of the earliest geological periods. From this he passes on to notice the earliest traces of man, and he denies that the geological evidences known to us at present do not warrant our believing that man existed in the Miocene or Pliocene eras. Nevertheless, he declares that, if man existed in the Miocene era, there would be nothing in this inconsistent with the Bible! This is an astonishing statement, for the Miocene period must have been *hundreds of thousands* of years ago. How geologists will agree with this statement of Sir J. W. Dawson, it is difficult to conceive. The Palæolithic age (usually called the Palæolithic period) is next described, and a good account is given of its great beasts, and the numerous human remains and works of art found in the caverns of Western Europe. This part of the book is particularly valuable, and our author declares—what cannot now be denied—that the earliest men were of a high mental development, and that they believed in the immortality of the soul. He, however, attaches little value to the numerous discoveries of human weapons and works of art of this age which have been found in America. After describing the different races of the Palæolithic age—such as those of Cannstadt, Cro-Magnon, and Furfooz—Sir J. W. Dawson declares that the Palæolithic (or Palæolithic) age came to an end by a great diluvial catastrophe. The break between it and the succeeding, or Neolithic, age is complete, and the great mammalia of the Palæolithic age disappear suddenly and completely from the northern hemisphere. This great invasion of waters at the close of the Palæolithic period is declared by our author to be the Biblical Deluge. The Neolithic age succeeded that of the Palæolithic, and is briefly noticed by Sir J. W. Dawson. He describes its fauna and its human beings. The great mammalia (*i.e.*, elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotami, lions, and tigers) disappeared from Europe—with Primitive Man—at the close of the Palæolithic era, and were succeeded in the Neolithic age by bears, stags, wild oxen, and wolves. Man in the Neolithic era was an agriculturist and a shepherd, and entered Europe from Asia, thus succeeding the ferocious races of the Palæolithic (or first-stone) era, who had been swept away by the great diluvial catastrophe. From the Neolithic age the history of man goes on, without a break, through the ages of Bronze and Iron, down to the dawn of history, and this serves to increase the importance of the great gap and break between the Palæolithic and the Neolithic periods. Sir J. W. Dawson thinks that the Palæolithic period represents the Antediluvian era, and he discusses at length the Chaldean story of the Flood, comparing it with the account of that catastrophe which is given in the Book of Genesis. He thinks that the savage Cainite race can be discovered in the wild men of the Cannstadt race, whose remains have been found in the Palæolithic caves and gravels; but this, of course, is mere conjecture. When Sir J. W. Dawson writes as a geologist, he is on sure ground, but when we venture into the doubtful and difficult region of Biblical criticism, our conclusions often

seem theoretical and less strongly supported by evidence. He places the site of the Garden of Eden at the head of the Persian Gulf, and escapes from the obvious difficulty which arises from the recent formation of the land in that region by the statement that at the time of man's appearance the land stood at a much higher elevation in this district than it does at present. In his succeeding chapters he discusses the Prehistoric East, the Noachian Dispersion, and special questions which arise from the narrative of the Noachian Deluge. Here he writes in a somewhat sketchy manner, and it is to be desired that he could work out his points with greater detail. The account he gives of the prehistoric caverns in Syria and Lebanon is interesting, as it brings before us a race of men clad in skins, armed with weapons of flint and bone, and contending against the elephant, the bison, and the woolly rhinoceros. The recent discoveries in Egypt, Chaldea, and amongst the relics of the Hittites, are glanced at, and a brief summary of results closes the book. The early portion of the work, which deals with the geological and archæological evidence relating to Primeval Man, is certainly its most important part, but the brief outline of early history in Bible lands which succeeds may be read with much profit, and much useful information may be gained from it.

D. GATH-WHITLEY.

Short Notices.

The Voices of the Stars. By J. E. WALKER, M.A., with a Preface by Prebendary REYNOLDS. Elliot Stock. 1894.

The plain and simple object of this little work is to give a trustworthy account of the science of the heavens, but *not* with the supernatural left out. The author justly recognises that Nature, with Nature's God left out, is nought—a mere monster of a vain imagination, and therefore incapable of being *thought*. There appears to be little to find fault with, and much to commend; we therefore hope it will be widely read.

Through Conversion to the Creed; being a brief Account of the Reasonable Character of Religious Conviction. By Rev. W. A. CARNEGIE. Longmans. Pp. 129.

The sincere thanks of all thoughtful readers are due, and will, we feel sure, be given, to Mr. Carnegie, for this valuable little book. Evidently well acquainted himself with the deeper forms of intellectualism of the present day, Mr. Carnegie deals with a difficult subject in a clear and masterly way. The sequence of thought which leads to a consideration, successively, of the nature, analogy, conditions, hypothesis, and development of Faith, is admirable, and calculated to be of great service to "honest doubters" and seekers after truth, and we heartily wish the book a wide circulation.

Farmer Goldsworthy's Will. By Mrs. ISLA SITWELL. S.P.C.K. Price 3s. 6d. Pp. 307.

A most interesting and capital story, exposing the dangers of covetousness and self-righteousness. The interest is well sustained to the very end. It will be in great demand in village libraries.

A Heart of Gold. By CECILIA SELBY LOWNDES. S.P.C.K. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 160.

This is a charming little tale of a lonely little boy in London, who makes friends with an old gentleman over the way, and eventually goes