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charitable brotherhood throughout the Empire there will be sincere sorrow for the premature and sudden removal of a ruler of their order so high-principled, just, courteous and kindly, whose services to themselves have been invaluable.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

Reviews.

The Poetry and the Religion of the Psalms, being the Croall Lectures for 1893-94. By JAMES ROBERTSON, D.D. Blackwood. Price 12s.

SLOWLY, but irresistibly, English common-sense and sobriety of judgment are asserting themselves in the matter of Old Testament criticism. Brilliant hypothesis can no longer claim a monopoly of attention in face of facts which are the common property of scholars. The Higher Criticism, in its "advanced" form, has nearly had its day (and a pretty destructive day it has been, taken altogether). It is rapidly growing obsolete, and must, in the nature of things, give way to some fresh development. Meanwhile, we may be grateful to it for the impetus which its very vagaries have given to the advancement of profounder views of revelation generally, and of the Old Testament in particular.

Dr. Robertson has already come before the public as an antagonist of the higher critics; he is in every sense a foeman worthy of the finest critical steel. His knowledge is deep as well as wide; his sagacity is great; his tact in handling his subject consummate. The present work is simply invaluable. We do not believe that the edge of his argument can be turned by any fair process of logic; and we are convinced that his contention that the old traditional view of the origin of the Psalter is—with certain needful modifications—a correct one, is altogether true. Unlike the books of all too many of the higher critics, the present volume is extremely interesting to read; the lucid style and the straightforward dealing with problems of literary and historical criticism are noticeable features in a very noticeable book.

Law's Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life. New edition, with Preface and Notes by Canon J. H. OVERTON, D.D. London: Macmillan and Co. Price 8s. 6d.

This is the first volume of the new "English Theological Library" which the Rev. F. Relton has undertaken to supervise on behalf of Messrs. Macmillan. Mr. Relton has been fortunate in securing the services of Canon Overton as editor of Law's "Serious Call"—a book which, published 170 years ago, marked an epoch in the history of religion in England. The editor in his preface justly says that the great Evangelical revival of the eighteenth century owed its first impetus to this book more than to any other.

The present edition is beautifully printed, and most tastefully bound in demy octavo size ; it is to be followed by complete editions or selected portions of the writings of the principal English theologians of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among volumes already announced, we note Hooker's "Ecclesiastical Polity," Book V. ; Jewel's "Apology"; and Butler's "Analogy and Sermons." We hope most earnestly that the general editor will not preclude from this invaluable series—as it promises to be—the writings of the great English Reformers ; Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer (to name no more) need adequate editions of their chief works, not least at this time.

Canon Overton's notes do not err on the side of fulness ; indeed, both these and the preface are almost too brief and sparse, in our judgment. However, the attempt to familiarize English students with the theological classics of our literature deserves all support, and we cordially wish the new series every success.

Short Notices.

Good Words, 1898. Isbister and Co. Pp. 860. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS most attractive volume again maintains its high place amongst high-class magazines. The illustrations are very delicate and beautiful. The principal stories are by Gilbert Parker and Maarten Maartens. The studies in biography, religion, social matters, art and literature, natural history, science, travel, history, and archæology, give an excellent variety. The whole makes a most interesting and charming gift-book.

Boys' and Girls' Companion, 1898. Church of England Sunday-School Institute. Pp. 192.

A useful contribution to interest and instruct on the Day of Rest. The series of Bible Questions, Bible Reading Union papers, Red Letter Days, the Editor's Letter-Box, and the stories, "Time Tries," "Charlie-Boy," and "Brightric the Sword-bearer," are all good.

The Sunday Magazine, 1898. Isbister and Co. Pp. 856. Price 7s. 6d.

There must be a great satisfaction in sending out so large a collection of admirable literature as is contained in this volume. Mrs. Molesworth is the principal story-teller, and there are many shorter pieces of the same kind. The Talks with Notable People are well and delicately executed, and there are seventeen biographical papers. Religion, Sunday Evenings with the Children, Travel, Literature, Art, Social papers, Poetry, Archæology, and kindred topics, happily fill up a very interesting collection. Dean Farrar's "Great Books" appeared here ; and the account of the Decorations at St. Paul's, and other architectural sketches, are valuable.