

Book Notices.

"The Standard Intermediate School Dictionary of the English Language." Designed to give the Orthography, Pronunciation, Meaning, and Etymology of about 38,000 Words and Phrases in the Speech and Literature of the English-speaking Peoples. Eight hundred Pictorial Illustrations. Abridged from the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary of the English Language. By James C. Fernald, Editor of the "Students' Dictionary." "English Synonyms, Antonyms, and Prepositions," etc. Svo. cloth, 533 viii pp. Price, \$1.00. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Co.

The Standard Dictionary is the most complete and comprehensive in the language, except, of course, the great English Dictionary which will not be finished for probably a score of years, and will cost two or three hundred dollars. But the Standard is too large and expensive for High School Students and Intermediate Scholars. The publishers have, therefore, provided for both these classes in the Students' standard at \$2.50, and the Intermediate School Dictionary at \$1.00.

The last is an attractive volume, the net result of several years' work in the review and abridgment of the Standard Dictionary, having been prepared by one of the Associate Editors of that work, Mr. James C. Fernald. It contains 38,000 words, especially selected with a view to meeting the needs of pupils and teachers in the public schools. For a volume of this size, the vocabulary is remarkably complete and inclusive. The newer words and meanings are carefully given, as in the case of "hypnotism," "Roentgen rays," etc.

In the vital matter of definition, this dictionary will stand exceptionally high. However brief the definitions, they always tell something characteristic and distinctive.

To the definitions are added very complete, though condensed and simplified, etymologies. The illustrations are new and remarkably fine, clear, and descriptive.

"Bible Difficulties and their Alleviative Interpretation." By Rev. Robert Stuart MacArthur, D.D., LL.D., pastor Calvary Baptist church, New York. One 12mo. volume, silk cloth, 450 pages. Price,

\$1.50. E. B. Treat & Co., publishers, 241-243 West Twenty-third Street, New York.

The substance of the chapters comprising this volume was delivered in addresses on consecutive Sunday evenings in the regular course of the author's ministry in the Calvary Baptist church. He has long felt that most of the difficulties generally supposed to be in the Bible are not really in the Bible; but are in the human interpretation of the Bible, rather than in the divine relation itself. It is vastly important to separate between erroneous biblical exposition and the actual truth of divine revelation.

The newer scholarship, which will readily be admitted, has disturbed and possibly unsettled the faith of some Bible students; but it is absolutely certain that it has given the Bible a fresh interest and an increased value. It is not necessary to accept all the conclusions of the so-called Higher Critics; indeed, these conclusions are often at variance with one another, and more careful criticism will entirely refute some of the positions taken. But we can readily see that the latter criticism has done much to disabuse the minds of some readers of their traditional interpretations and unauthoritative preconceptions of Holy Scripture; and, as a result, the Bible was never so new and so attractive a library as it is at this hour. It never was so carefully studied as now; and it never has been to the Church or to the race the blessing which it will be in the near future. The aim of these discourses is to separate between false interpretation and genuine revelation. Miracles which God performs we unquestionably receive; miracles which men imagine we are free to accept or reject.—Author's Preface.

The Last Thought.

The last thought before you dismiss school is often the one that will linger longest in the minds of the scholars. Save for this point in the exercises your best thought. Put it in your best words. Tell it with your best manner. Illustrate it with your richest and clearest simile. Part with it at the end of your day's effort with your most fervent prayer for the Spirit's guidance—guidance for you in the saying and for the thought in its goings.—Mississippi Sunday-school Worker.