

which are by others recognized as good, but which do not appeal very powerfully to us. These books should be worked with until we have wrested from them the secret of their power.

In coming to specify the classes of books, I would put, as all of us would put, the Bible in the first place. After all that has been said, the Bible is still the one great incomparable Book. And the Bible should be not only the pastor's constant subject, but also his constant companion. It must be for him not merely a quarry for texts, but the Word of the living God for his soul. When he comes home on Sunday evenings it is most uplifting for him to read a long section from some prophet, or a large number of Psalms, or a generous portion of the Proverbs—and this not because he is an under-shepherd, but because he is a member of the Master's flock and needs for his own soul the green pasture and the still waters.

It should be the ambition of every pastor, as it seems to me, or of most pastors at least, to be able to read both the Old and the New Testaments in the original languages. There is a freshness and vigour here that it is serious for the Bible student to lose, and every pastor should give all diligence to arrive at that place where he can make his way through the Hebrew or the Greek chapters without finding the strange words and idioms irritating stumbling blocks to check him in his pursuit of the thought.

But if a pastor needs to study the Word of God as the food upon which he feeds, the position which he occupies makes another kind of study necessary. It is his duty to feed the flock of God, and this makes it necessary that he should understand how to prepare spiritual food. We take it for granted that we all see the need of the Holy Spirit's aid in this matter, for without that no pastor can begin rightly to divide the Word of Truth. This is fundamental, and an absolute necessity if there is to be any hope of success. But the preparation of spiritual food makes necessary also the scientific and critical study of the Scriptures. And for this kind of work many good books have been written. To mention all would be impossible, but I have found many volumes of the Expositor's Bible very helpful for the suggestion and discussion of topics, the Can-