

Book Notices.

The Gospel and Modern Substitutes.

By the REV. A. SCOTT MATHE-
SON, Dumbarton. Edinburgh: Oli-
phant, Anderson & Ferrier. To-
ronto: William Briggs. Price
\$1.50.

This is emphatically a book for the times. Its purpose is to bring out the inexhaustible fulness of the Gospel of Christ, in relation to modern creeds that contest its supremacy and claim to supersede it. The author conceives that the best way to meet those systems is to carefully examine them, and frankly admit the good that they contain—the elements of truth and life that the Church has been slow to admit. He claims that there is something of truth in the speculations of Comte, Darwin and Schopenhauer, which should be recognized; but that the revelation of Jesus Christ contains the best of everything in science, in positivism and socialism. "The new influence," our author eloquently remarks, "which has been in the world since Christ came to it, may be casting its leaves only to show us that it is still the tree of life, whose leaves with every new spring are for the healing of the nations. . . . Our old questions of theology and worship, of polity and service, are finding new expression in the terms of science and art, of equity and righteousness, of brotherhood and love." In this spirit he discusses the Gospel and Agnosticism; the Gospel and Science—the law of heredity, the law of variation; the Gospel and Positivism; the Gospel and Socialism—social grievances, the distribution of wealth, etc.; the Gospel and Pessimism; the Gospel and Art.

The part of this book that appeals most strongly to our sympathies is that which treats the social wrongs and disabilities of the great masses of the poor. When the Master was on earth and saw the multitudes as sheep unshepherded and suffering

and sorrowing, He had compassion on them and ministered to their wants, of the body as well as of the soul. No religion, it seems to us, is worth much which does not seek to remove the wrongs and secure the social rights of God's great family of the poor. We thank God for the spirit of altruism which is more and more actuating mankind, and for that passionate charity which, in the very spirit of Christ, is seeking to save that which is lost, is seeking to relieve the anxious inquiries of earnest but doubting souls, and to solve with the panacea of the Gospel the thousand evils of the times. We, therefore, welcome such books as this, which come not in the spirit of narrow exclusiveness or of timid defensiveness, but of sympathetic comprehension of all the good of all the creeds.

The Life of George H. Stuart. Written by himself. Edited by R. ELLIS THOMPSON, D.D. Philadelphia: George M. Stoddart & Co. Price \$2.00.

This is the record of a noble life. The story of the Christian merchant and philanthropist is told in a simple and unpretending style; yet it is full of absorbing interest. George H. Stuart was one of those notable gifts of Ireland and of the Irish Presbyterian Church to the United States. He became a very important factor in the public life, and especially in the religious life, of that country. He early acquired a large income, which he ceaselessly employed in doing good. The following is a brief summary of his Christian and philanthropic labours.

"The work of the Christian commission is but an episode in the life of this noble man, who from boyhood spent his life in the cause of benevolence and for the advancement of Christianity. The Presbyterian Church in America, long divided