

Book Notices.

Essays for the Times. Studies of Eminent Men and Important Living Questions. By REV. E. H. DEWART, D.D. Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price, 75c.

The many friends of Dr. Dewart will be glad to read this volume of essays for the times from his practised pen. They are all upon important subjects, and all, we believe, have passed the ordeal of publication in some high-class review or magazine. The great topics which they discuss are of living interest and of permanent importance. They possess a combination of literary brilliance and strength of style, like a sword of steel with damascened blade and jewelled hilt. They have also a breadth of view, a liberality of thought, which show that Dr. Dewart, even when combating certain questionable tendencies in current theology, is full abreast of modern theories.

There is a fascination about the character of "Robertson of Brighton" that justifies the ample treatment of his life and work. Every Methodist ought to be familiar with the noble character and epoch-making work of James Arminius, to whom the theology of Methodism owes so much. Few things are more instructive in literary history than the confessions and retractions of George John Romanes, who, for many years, was prime expounder of the Darwinian theory of evolution, but who in his riper and maturer thought "returned to that full deliberate communion with the Church of Jesus Christ, which he had been for so many years conscientiously compelled to forego."

No subject can be more important for either pulpit or pew than the question, "What should ministers preach?" To this Dr. Dewart gives a strong, clear, decisive answer. A sturdy Christian optimism throbs in every line of the essay, "Is the World Growing Worse?" Other essays are, "The Tübingen School of Criticism," "The Last of the Great Prophets," "Moral Teaching of the Old Testament," etc.

In lighter vein is Dr. Dewart's sympathetic critique on Charles Sangster, whom he considers to hold a foremost place among our Canadian poets. Dr. Dewart also enriches the volume with some later poems of his own, written

since the publication of his "Songs of Life." Among these are some which have commanded wide recognition both in the Old World and the New. The Jubilee poem on the Queen's long reign, that "On the Death of Lord Tennyson," and "Then and Now," a response to Tennyson's "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," and his recent magnificent "In Memoriam" to William Ewart Gladstone, have not, in our judgment, been surpassed in Canadian verse. Indeed, the Tennyson and Gladstone "In Memoriams" have not, we think, been equalled as elegies of these great men.

Sin and Holiness; or, What it is to be Holy. By REV. D. W. C. HUNTINGTON, D.D., Chancellor Nebraska Wesleyan University. 12mo. Cloth. Pp. 288. Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis: Curts & Jennings. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.20.

The views presented in this book are greatly needed at the present time in the Church. The author says: "At the time of my conversion and connection with the Church I assumed the correctness of the teachings upon the subject of entire sanctification which I then received. I was taught that they were Scriptural and according to the standards of Methodism. Guided by those who received them in a similar way, I was led at two different periods of my Christian life to believe that I had 'experienced the blessing of sanctification,' understanding by that term, as I did, the removal or destruction of what I was instructed to regard as 'inbred sin.' That I did realize at each of these seasons a gracious uplift in spiritual life I shall never doubt. Christ was revealed to me and in me as He had not been revealed before. For weeks following, not a movement in my nature disurbed the deep calm of my spirit. I could say with another, 'I sought God in everything, and found Him everywhere.' That I experienced just what I thought I did, I do not now believe. I have evidence that the views presented in the following pages have, in the hand of God, been helpful to a considerable number of sincere but distressed children of God. These are my reasons for writing as I have written."