

## HELPFUL DATA IN CURRENT LITERATURE.

PHYSICS AND SOCIOLOGY, by W. H. Mallock. *Contemporary Review*, February, 1896. Leonard Scott Publication Company, 231 Broadway, New York.—This is the third in a series of articles by Mr. Mallock, the first two of which have already been noticed in this REVIEW. There is no falling off in this article from the high order of clear and sustained thought of the former articles. The opening statement is a summary of the points made, maintained, and sustained in the previous articles, and is as follows:

VII. Brief Summary of the Argument of the two preceding Articles. Great Men analogous to Atoms of superior size, on whose presence the aggregation of all the other Atoms depends. Great Men the first Study of the Sociologist.

The author here calls attention to a first point—admitted and insisted upon by all sociologists, but "which, having insisted on it, they therefore neglect, never in the least perceiving, or, at all events, never following out, its consequences. The point is as follows:

"All social phenomena, all conditions of society, and all changes from one condition to another, depend on the character of the units of which society is composed; and each unit acts on its social environment, and is in turn reacted on by it, equally in virtue of its character, being what it is."

He emphasized a second truth that flows from the first:

"Men are divided into dissimilar groups, not only by a variety of characteristics, but by the varying degrees in which these various characteristics are possessed by them.

... Whatever may be the faculties or characteristics in the human units, to which social civilization is due, these faculties are found existing in a minority of the units to a degree which is quite exceptional; and the minority possessing them to this degree, is marked off from the majority as a practically separate class. All sociologists will admit, indeed they do admit, this much; but what they do not admit, or what, at all events, they do not scientifically recognize, is as follows: All social civilization, and all progress, is due primarily to the action of this minority."

The social units thus "divide themselves broadly into two classes—the exceptional and the ordinary—into great men and average men. Progress and civilization result primarily from the action of units of the former on those of the latter class; and secondarily from the reaction of those of the latter class on those of the former class. The characters of both, therefore, require an equally careful study."

The author then takes up and considers the first of these factors in progress and civilization, under the following heads; the points in each of which he amply illustrates by concrete examples:

VIII. Great Men are of various degrees and kinds. Accidental Greatness and Congenital Greatness. The Men Congenitally Great to be studied first.

IX. Congenital Greatness requires to be educed and developed. The Development of Greatness dependent on the Motives supplied by Society.

X. The Truth of the foregoing Contentions Implicitly Acknowledged, tho' Practically Disregarded, by J. S. Mill, in his "Logic of the Social Relations."

These articles of Mr. Mallock deserve to be studied by every man who desires to know what is the truly scientific basis of Sociology.

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION: EUROPE OR RUSSIA? by H. F. B. Lynch. Same review and publishers.—This is a calm and intelligent statement of the present status of the Eastern Question in its relations to Armenia, by one who has looked into the questions involved in the problem for himself and on the ground and with as much freedom from prejudice as can be expected of the average Englishman. He also presents some new aspects that are of interest and value. Mr. Lynch's three articles on the Armenian Question in Russia and in Turkey—in *The Contemporary Review* for June, July, and September, 1894—are the most complete statements accessible of the subjects treated in them.

FOUR TYPES OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT.—III. The Epistle to the Hebrews. By Alexander Balmain Bruce. *The Biblical World*, February, 1896. The University of Chicago Press.—This article is of special value in bringing out and helping to answer the vital question, What is the aim of the Epistle and how does it accomplish its aim? The author's answer is in brief this:

"It is an apologetic treatise in epistolary form, meant to help Hebrew Christians who had no true insight into the nature and value of the Christian faith, while still bearing the Christian name. . . . Christianity, the religion of free access; Leviticalism, the religion of distant ceremonious relations; such is the radical contrast of the Epistle."

We regard all such work as of great value to the preacher in his efforts to secure a knowledge of the Word of God; altho we look upon the distinction of "Types of Christian Thought,"—so often used as implying not merely diversity of point of view, but contrariety, if not contradiction, in the New Testament writers,—as entirely specious.

We have been familiar with *The Biblical World* from its inception, and we are in full sympathy with its professed aim as an aid to the knowledge of the Word of God. Its point of view is not the traditional and conservative one. The following passage from a review, by one of the responsible editors, of Dr. McCurdy's book on "History, Prophecy, and the Monuments," will give a clew:

"Now the student of the Old Testament will have, with his Driver for Introduction and his Smith for Geography, also his McCurdy for History, a triad of works whose faithful and diligent study will make the Old Testament a new book, a living, fruitful book, revealing its character, purpose, truth, and power as these have never before been revealed. Happy the learner in sacred lore who with open mind and earnest purpose sits at the feet of these masters!"

THE REVIEW OF REVIEWS, for February, 1896, has its usual rich summary of the news of the world. It is easily alone among all the monthlies of its class.

Clerical readers will be particularly interested in the article on "The Massacres in Turkey. From October 1, 1895, to January 1, 1896." It is a brief and comprehensive statement calculated to neutralize the effects of the misleading statements of the Turkish Government. The paper is based upon full accounts of the massacres, written on the ground, by many persons—French, English, Canadian, American, Turk, Kurd, and Armenian—persons trustworthy and intelligent, who were in the places where the massacres occurred, and who were eye-witnesses of the horrible scenes." It is therefore to be depended upon implicitly.