

Book Notices.

"The New Knowledge." A Popular Account of the New Physics and the New Chemistry, in their Relation to the New Theory of Matter. By Robert Kennedy Duncan. Illustrated. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xviii-263. Price, \$2.00 net.

The new theory of matter and the relation to other sciences of the new discoveries in chemistry and physics is here presented vividly and memorably in a book for the scientist or the layman. The student will find in the volume a clear and detailed account of the most significant experiments of Becquerel, M. and Mme. Curie, Ramsay, Crookes, and others, stripped of all the pseudo science with which popular reports have clothed them, and presenting facts which are only to be obtained in partial reports scattered through the files of foreign scientific journals, or as Professor Duncan gathered them, from the scientists themselves. This new knowledge still holds the secret of the heat of the sun, the nature of electricity, the evolution of a universe, and the birth and decay of matter. There is suggested in it a cure for tuberculosis, light without heat, vast stores of energies hitherto unsuspected, and a whole series of radiations from matter in the natural state. The author's wide experience has shown the need of a popular synthesis of the new discoveries which, separately, have been making so profound an impression, and he gives a general view of the newest discoveries and their possibilities.

"The Witness to the Influence of Christ." Being the William Belden Noble Lectures for 1904. By the Right Rev. Wm. Boyd Carpenter, D.D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. viii-180. Price, \$1.10 net.

Readers of the previous works of Dr. Carpenter will be glad to see a new volume from his pen. He begins with a discussion of the relation of science to religion, the attempt to treat religion scientifically, and the necessity of admitting the validity of a scientific method of challenging the grounds on which truths may be based. He claims that religious faith is based on facts which

are scientifically ascertainable. He discusses the debt of the world to great personalities, and the relation of greatness to a perfect harmony with God, and then goes on to urge the revivifying of Christian doctrines by laying them beside the principles of Christ. He develops the arguments against a religion which is chiefly occupied with matters outside man's consciousness. In the last chapter the Bishop sums up his arguments with a discussion of the question whether we can reach an assurance of faith which fills the needs of our character and our conduct. He pleads for the heroism of faith as against the demand for certitude and a supreme earthly authority; and closes with an assertion of the inseparability of religion and ethics.

"The Cyclopædic Handbook to the Bible." An Introduction to the Study of Sacred Scripture. By the late Joseph Angus, M.A., D.D. A New Edition, Thoroughly Revised, and in part Rewritten. By Samuel G. Green, D.D. New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. xvi-332. Price, \$3.00 net.

The Bible is again in the crucible of criticism. It has been subjected to the most searching tests. The average lay mind, and some preachers as well, are puzzled by the conflicting theories as to its origin, age, integrity, and authenticity. An authoritative work, therefore, that will meet these difficulties, set forth the conclusions of the latest learning and investigation, and give the results of adequate scholarship, is an important desideratum. Such a book is furnished in this great work. It is a vigorous maintenance of what Mr. Gladstone calls "the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture." It treats in its first part the Bible as a book, the formation of the canon and text of both Old and New Testaments, its many versions, its interpretation, its study in relation to doctrine and life. Part II. discusses the books of the Old and New Testaments historically and critically, throws a flood of light on many difficulties, and enables the devout student to give a reason for the faith that is in him. So large a book at the low price of \$3.00 is a marvel of cheapness.