

cal manner, what each writer of Scripture teaches. It assumes that each of the Biblical authors has a distinct point of view, and makes a separate contribution to truth. That contribution is sought for in the ideas given by each, in prophecy, gospel, epistle, history or apocalypse, as the case may be. In applying it to the Old Testament, the effort is made to present a general view of the religious institutions, and of the ethical and religious conceptions of Israel, in their beginnings, and in the historical course of their development. In the case of the New Testament, the teaching of Jesus and the different types of apostolic teaching, are examined in their historical character, in their relation to one another, and to the religious ideas of the time. It is also generally perceived that there is a unity in Biblical teaching, and the ideas which belong to all parts of Scripture are pointed out and traced to their common centre. Usually, in Old and New Testament theology, three things are kept in view, (a) the different types of teaching, (b) the development of doctrine from age to age, and (c) the proportion of the different teachings. And this is followed up in regard to such topics as God, Religion, Psychology, Redemption, Sociology. Although Biblical Theology has been called the offspring of German Rationalism, and although it was born at the same time as the higher criticism, and is dependent, in a sense, on its results, it is perfectly consistent with faith, and is cultivated by the most evangelical theologians. It is combined, in most of the seminaries which give attention to it, with efforts to secure a thorough and adequate knowledge of the English Bible.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS.

Christian Ethics, or Moral Theology, furnishes the work of separate chairs in Yale, Hartford and Harvard; and if we count Sociology a department of it, in Chicago and Meadville; and it is the subject of lectureships in a number of colleges.

Students are accustomed, in their Arts course, to study Moral Philosophy, that is, ethics based on the conscience or inborn moral sense, and on reason. But Moral Theology is Ethics based on the revealed will of God, and the example of Jesus, as these are elaborated into a system by reason. Definitions of Christian Ethics are as various as the authors who have written on the subject. It has been called "the science which deduces from Christianity the laws of human action;" "that part of systematic theology which has for its object the Christian life;" "the science of Christian morals;" "the theory of the normal Christian life;" "the scientific representation of those revealed truths, which are the rules of our will and action;" "the doctrine of human character;" "the science of living according to Christianity."