

BOOK NOTICES.

HYPATIA ; or New Faces with an Old Face. By Charles Kingsley, Jun., Rector of Eversley, author of "Alton Locke," &c. Boston : Crosby, Nichols & Co. Sold in Montreal, by John Armour, Great St. James Street.

MR. KINGSLEY is one of the most attractive writers of the present day. A beneficed clergyman of the Church of England, with generous culture, enlarged sympathies, and vivid imagination, his pages have the full charm of freshness, while they abound with instruction and interest. In "Alton Locke," he let us see that he was at least no stranger to the doubts, difficulties, and sufferings of the working-classes in his native land at the present day. And in "Hypatia" he lets us see, farther, that he has a close acquaintance with the doubts, difficulties, conflicting opinions, and unhappy strifes, which in ancient times agitated and disturbed other lands. If the name of his former hero was fictitious, the name of his present heroine is historical. Hypatia was an eminent and accomplished woman of Alexandria, who flourished in the early part of the fifth century. She was a Neo-Platonist,* and lectured in the Museum to crowds of admiring disciples. Contemporaries with her in Alexandria were Orestes, the Roman Prefect, and Cyril, the Christian Bishop. She was accused of influencing the Prefect, to the prejudice of the Christians, and fell a victim to the fanaticism of the monks. Mr. Kingsley's book presents a vivid picture of the times ; and in the various characters which he introduces, shows us how forms of thought, substantially the same with many which now occupy attention, lived and flourished there likewise. These, together with certain priestly and fanatical practices not wholly unknown in our day, are the "foes" presented with the "old face,"

* Perhaps it may be useful to say here, that after the death of Plato, his disciples differed concerning the interpretation of his doctrines. Hence we have Old School and New School Platonists. In history, the New School are commonly styled Neo-Platonists.