

## BOOK NOTICES.

*The Old Testament in the Jewish Church.—Twelve Lectures on Biblical Criticism.* By W. ROBERTSON SMITH, M.A. New York : D. Appleton & Co. Seaside Library Edition. Toronto : Wm. Briggs. Price, 20 cents.

The articles of Professor Smith on Biblical subjects in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the recent volumes of "Scotch Sermons," and these lectures, delivered this year before crowded houses in Glasgow and Edinburgh, show the extraordinary drift away from traditional orthodoxy of certain members of the church of Knox, long the bulwark of religious conservatism. Every page of these lectures bears evidence of the profound and varied scholarship of the learned Professor, of his devout spirit and of the literary charm of his style. Much that he says cannot, of course, be gainsaid, and is universally admitted by biblical scholars. Some things which are not thus admitted, are matters on which opinions will differ, and which cannot, in the nature of things, be considered as proved or disproved. But several of his conclusions seem to us quite paradoxical and untrustworthy, not to say impossible. The account of the formation of the canon of Scripture, and the analysis of the Psalter, contain many admirable and instructive passages. But his strange theory that the Pentateuch, with the exception of the moral law, is the creation of the times of Ezra, we regard as directly opposed to most positive internal evidence, and equally opposed to the most carefully formed opinion of many biblical critics of learning as profound as that of Professor Smith, and of judgment far more mature and trustworthy. The predominance of Egyptian ideas in the Book of Exodus, and the local colouring and perfect veri-similitude to ancient life which they present, would be impossible in a compilation so late as

the time of Ezra. The existence of the Elohistic and Jehovistic elements in the Pentateuchal narrative, upon which so much stress is laid, presents no difficulty to the theory that pre-existing documents, or oral tradition, were employed by Moses in writing his inspired history of the creation and deluge, and of the Abrahamic family and house of Israel.

We do not see that Professor Smith's theories, even if proven, would necessitate any important theological changes; but we are emphatically of the opinion that the difficulties in the way of accepting those theories are incomparably greater than the alleged difficulties which he thereby attempts to remove.

*The Wesley Memorial Volume; or, Wesley and the Methodist Movement Judged by nearly a Hundred and Fifty Writers Living or Dead.* Edited by the Rev. J. O. CLARK, D.D., L.L.D. 8vo. pp. 743, illustrated. New York : Phillips & Hunt. Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax Price, \$5.

This memorial volume is a very timely issue in this year of Ecumenical Conference. It is the most many-sided presentation of that marvellous movement called Methodism with which we are acquainted. The origin of the book was on this wise: the Rev. Dr. Clark, its editor, was pastor of a Methodist church in Savannah, Georgia, the only city in the new world in which Wesley had a home. A Wesley memorial church in Savannah was begun. (Of this elegant church we gave an engraving in a former number of this Magazine). Dr. Clark proposed also to erect in this book a monument more enduring than marble. The result is the goodly volume before us, the net proceeds of which will be exclusively