

## Book Notices.

*The Life of William Cochrane, D.D.* By R. N. GRANT. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.00.

The life-story of any man, if it be well told, may be of absorbing interest, especially the story of such a man as the ex-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Mr. Grant, the well-known "Knoxonian" of the *Westminster*, writes in racy style. William Cochrane at twelve years of age was a bookseller's message boy in Paisley. Early orphaned, God took him up, found him friends who put him through college in Ohio, and opened his way to thirty-six years' pastorate of Zion Church, Brantford, a remarkably busy and fruitful life, and the highest honours the Canadian Presbyterian Church could bestow. A pathetic interest is given the volume by the last two sermons, which were left in manuscript, but never preached. The book is an incentive to noble being and earnest doing.

*How Much is Left of the Old Doctrines. A Book for the People.* By WASHINGTON GLADDEN. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

When the revision of the Old and New Testament Scriptures was made, a great map\* persons were surprised to hear that several hundred changes had been made in the Scripture text. They were reassured, however, to learn that not one of those changes affected religious truth, that they only gave stronger emphasis to the old, old doctrines, on which the Church so long had lived. So also with the criticism and shifting of these latter days. They but signify the steadfastness of the "impregnable rock" of Holy Scripture. "We have received a kingdom which cannot be moved, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

With most of the conclusions of Dr. Gladden we agree. "Certain it is," he says, "that this Jesus is, more than any other, the central figure, the central force, of modern history. And here is the Book which tells me what I know about Him. Is there any other book which has, which can have, for me a value to be compared with that which I must set upon this Book? If you and I go to the Book," he adds, "not to cavil or to criti-

cise, but wishing for peace and power and wisdom and courage and comfort and promise of the life to come, with open mind receiving the influences it is fitted to impart, we shall find, what countless millions have found, that it is able to make us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The author fairly pulverizes the old Calvinism which once held sway, but which no man now living now holds. He assails too, "the stiff sort of materialistic philosophy which is just as fatalistic as Augustine or Calvin for us." He shows that the so-called "reign of law" can be overruled by the human will, much more by Divine will. That there is a supernatural as well as a natural, even in controlling an electric lamp.

From some of the author's conclusions as to the Arch-tempter of mankind and even of our Lord, we must dissent. The revolt from the superstitions of the Middle Ages may carry one into an opposite extreme error.

*A Century of Science and other Essays.*

By JOHN FISKE. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$2.00.

Few men in America are so well qualified as Professor Fiske to write on the subject which gives the title to this volume. He passes rapidly in review the great advance made in the realm of science in this most wonderful of all the centuries. It is only by looking back from the hill-top of the century's close upon the progress of a hundred years that we can get any conception of the vast strides that have been made. The chief achievements of science, indeed, have been almost entirely those of the last half-century.

Professor Fiske accepts unreservedly the doctrine of evolution; not the blind, blank, inexorable reign of iron law, but a theistic conception of the unfolding of God's will and purpose from age to age. "The doctrine of evolution," he says, "which affects our thought about all things, brings before us with vividness the conception of an ever-present God—not an absentee God who once manufactured a cosmic machine capable of running itself, except for a little jog or poke here and there in the shape of a special providence. The doctrine of evolution destroys the conception of the world as a