

THE BOOK PAGE

Religion and the Modern World, is the title of a series of lectures delivered before the Glasgow University Society of St. Ninian (Hodder & Stoughton, London, Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, 260 pages, \$1.50 net). The Society exists for the purpose of promoting free discussion by its members of questions bearing on the different aspects of religion, and men of diverse schools of thought are invited to speak out their mind freely. Each contributor speaks for himself. The list of lecturers in the present volume comprises such well-known expert scholars and writers as Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, Principal J. Estlin Carpenter, Oxford, Rev. Father Gerard, S.J., Rev. Professor David Smith, Rev. James Moffatt of Broughty-Ferry, and gives an exhibit of modern problems in regard to religion and their solution. As Sir Donald Macalister, the Principal of Glasgow University, says in the preface, "Those who are constrained to examine the intellectual reasons for their belief will be the better equipped for the inquiry, if they are first made conversant with the forces that are actually operating to weaken or to strengthen its foundations." This book will be found of distinct service in that direction.

The two volumes by Rev. J. B. Shearer, D.D., a Southern Professor of Biblical Instruction, and entitled respectively, **Hebrew Institutions Social and Civil**, and **Selected Old Testament Studies**, (The Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Virginia, 170 and 223 pages, 60c. net per volume), are, so far as point of view is concerned,

at the antipodes of the St. Ninian lectures. The author is avowedly traditional in his view of Biblical questions. For instance, the dedication of the first named book is "to one who fifty years ago taught me the absolute perfection of Old Testament institutions." There is much that is instructive in Dr. Shearer's work for those who follow as he does "the old-fashioned, traditional common-sense and surface view" of the books of Moses. It is somewhat startling, however, to find in the *Hebrew Institutions* a defence of slavery, at least household slavery, on Scripture grounds.

The New Testament in Modern Speech, by Richard Frances Weymouth, appears in the third edition, edited and partly revised by Ernest Hampton-Cook (James Clarke & Co., London, 734 pages, 70c. net, in Oxford India Paper, \$1.25 net, and in various other editions). This idiomatic translation into everyday English, from the text of the "Resultant Greek Testament", is a work of sound and exact learning, and of permanent value. As explained in the preface, it is an earnest endeavor based upon more than sixty years of study of both the Greek and English languages, and continuous teaching, to exhibit the exact meaning of the New Testament writers in the English of the present day. It is, of course, not intended as a substitute for either the Authorized or Revised Versions, but "to furnish a succinct and compressed running commentary." In this the translator is entirely successful. Weymouth's *New Testament in Modern Speech*, has become a familiar work in every well-equipped min-

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