

Literary and Scientific.

THE BIBLE RECORD OF MAN'S ORIGIN.

Regarding the scriptural account of the origin of man, James R. Nichols writes in *Items of Interest* as follows: "Whether it be regarded as a legend of very early times, a story characteristic of the East, or as a supernatural revelation of man's genesis, . . . there is in the narrative certain internal evidence, which, independent of all other considerations, lends to it a startling significance. The prominent incidents of the transaction so briefly presented are wonderfully in accord with possibilities; there is evidence of a wise adaptation of means to ends.

We are told without any show of hesitancy that man was made out of the "dust of the earth"; that is, he came from the same general mother or source as all organic life. If the statement were that he was formed out of the rocks or out of the trees of the garden, it would be far less significant of his true chemical constitution as made known through modern research. In the "dust of the earth" we have an expression which may be interpreted to mean the *soil* of the earth, which includes both the organic and inorganic constituents found in the physical organization of man. In this material we have lime, potash, soda, magnesia, iron, phosphorus, and quite all the chemical bodies essential to man's organism. In the humus of the soil we have the materials needed for the formation of living tissues, the carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen. The source from which man is stated to have been derived is seen to have been fully capable of supplying every needed element without the interposition of a miracle to summon the molecules from afar. A human narrator of such a stupendous transaction, would hardly have allowed his excited imagination to go no further than common dust for his man-material; he would have selected the clear air about him; the chemical nature of which was to him a mystery; or he would have interwoven the rainbow or the gorgeous hues of the setting sun into the noble form of man.

After the completion of the structure, a still more important act remained to be accomplished—the endowment of life. The narrator proceeds to say that "God breathed" into the figure of man the breath of life." This language and statement is even more remarkable than that relating to the formation of the body. From what we know of the mind or soul of man, we cannot give it a lower place than is assigned in the narrative; it must be "breath," or an emanation from the Creator; it must be the closest, most distinctive representation of the Supreme intelligence of all principles in the universe. It is infinitely higher than matter; it is a part of a Divine originator. If this

were only an Eastern tale, told by an ancient story-teller, he would have given life to his figure by agencies far different; the statement would be too tame to meet his own inclination or the wishes of his listeners. Whoever wrote the first chapters of the book of Genesis, it is certain he was no ordinary chronicler; he was destitute of the gorgeous imagination so common to the authors of the legends and tales of the East, and was clairvoyant in a high degree. He must have had whisperings from unseen sources, and been directed by a wisdom not common to the men of the times in which he lived. . . . What is called the Mosaic account of the Genesis of man, taken as a whole, must be regarded even by evolutionists as remarkable.

BOOK NOTICES.

MALARIA AND MALARIAL DISEASES, by George Sternberg, M.D., F.R.M.S., Maj and Surg. U. S. Army, &c., &c. New York: William Wood & Co. for July, 1884. Cloth, pp. 29. Sold only by subscription.

This, like all of Wood's series, especially this year, is a very handsome volume. This one is on an attractive subject, but it is somewhat disappointing, for, as an exchange has it, "The well-known reputation of Sternberg as an investigator of this subject led to the hope that he had some solution of the difficulties in which it is involved. With the most painstaking care he has ransacked all sources for all known facts bearing upon the solution of the problem, only to leave the tangle as great as ever." Still, the book gives an admirable history of the present knowledge on the subject, and will well repay careful reading. Relating to the nature of malaria, the author says:—"As neither the researches which have been made nor the speculations in which we have indulged have brought us to the point of answering in a definite manner the question, What is malaria?—we are reduced to the necessity of concluding this chapter with an acknowledgment of ignorance as to the real nature of this widely distributed poison.

"The question whether malarial poisoning may result from the drinking of surface water in malarious regions is one of great importance. It is well established that enteric fever and certain active fluxes may result from the use of contaminated drinking water; and in the case of the former disease we know that even very great dilution does not destroy the infectious properties of the contaminated water. That fevers having an intermittent or remittent character may also be produced in the same way cannot be doubted. But we have already seen in the introduction to the present volume that enteric fever frequently pre-