

Looks into Books.

KNOX COLLEGE.

The Jubilee Memorial Volume.

As subscribers to the memorial volume are continually making inquiry as to the date at which the book is to be published, and as such correspondence is increasing, it seems desirable that this brief statement be sent to the columns of the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. It gives the committee pleasure to announce that an earnest effort is being made to place the volume on sale, and to fill all advance orders, not later than next April.

But a vast amount of work remains to be overtaken, and patience is likely to continue to be as much a necessary grace on the part of any of the subscribers. Much of the information required is difficult to obtain. Much of the information volunteered is plainly in view of verification. Much of the information asked for is supplied in such a partial way that it has to be asked for again. Thus delays,—generally quite needless delays, often ratherasperating delays,—have from the first confronted the Committee at every.

Take for example that section of the volume which is to be devoted to the graduates of the College, and for which items of biographical information have been diligently sought for during the past twelve months. A year ago a blank form, containing a series of inquiries, was mailed to every Alumnus of the Institution. Time and pains were cheerfully expended in ascertaining the correct addresses of the graduates, many of whom live abroad, and some of whom did not eventually enter the ministry. And what was the result? About one half of the blanks were not returned until the Secretary repeated the request that they be returned "at once"; and fully one-third of them have not been returned yet! Will every Alumnus who has not filled out and remailed the blank in question kindly remail it this week. Is it not the wish of the Committee to omit from the honorary roll which is being prepared even one name that ought to appear in it; hence every effort is still being put forth to make the record complete. If additional blanks are needed, they may be had for the asking.

It is gratifying to be assured by many an evidence that the Memorial Volume will be greeted with a very cordial welcome.

LOTIS H. JORDAN.

275 Jarvis St., Toronto.

Sec'y Publication Committee.

THE FOLLY OF ATHEISM, by the Rev. George Sexton, M.A., LL.D., M.D., etc. Toronto, W. Briggs, Methodist Book Room, 40 cents.

This is a new edition (the third) of a well-known publication by the celebrated Dr. Sexton. The argument of the author proceeds link by link until a conclusion is reached that no infidel sophistry can gainsay. Reason, logic, philosophy and modern science are all drawn upon and the language employed is at once clear, simple and eloquent. No sceptic has ever attempted to reply to the doctor's arguments although they have been brought under the notice of all the leading Freethinkers, as well in the old country as in the United States and Canada. The book has been unstintingly praised both by the English and American press.

THE ELEMENTS OF THE HIGHER CRITICISM, by Andrew C. Zeno, Professor of Biblical Theology in McCormick Theological Seminary. Chicago, Funk & Wagnalls; New York, London and Toronto.

This is a timely book of 254 pages and supplies a real need in theological literature, being an attempt to state in something like scientific form the principles of the Higher Criticism about which there is so much needless alarm in many quarters. He shows clearly that the Higher Criticism of the Bible is merely a method for determining the origin, literary form, and value of the sacred writings from the evidence furnished by the contents of the books themselves. It is therefore one of the sources of our information regarding these books, to be taken into account along with other sources that may be available for the purpose of arriving at the most certain conclusions. As such the use of it is perfectly legitimate and often valuable, the important thing being to secure that it shall proceed according to sound principles. Of course many previous attempts to determine what these sound principles are have been made but for the most part these have been incidental to the discussion of some particular problem. It was time the whole subject was put upon a more scientific basis and arranged in a more systematic form. Prof. Zeno's book is fairly successful. The first chapter on the significance of the name "Higher Criticism" is perhaps needlessly abstruse and repellent to a tyro. It would also have made the work more intelligible to many readers if there had been a chapter somewhere near the beginning containing a methodical statement of the various sources of information

as to the origin of the books of the Bible, so that the results of the Higher Criticism might be seen to fall into their proper place as one of several lines of evidence to be considered. But his discussion of the principles on which it should be conducted is all through clear, sensible, judicious and conspicuously fair. His treatment of the influence of philosophic or dogmatic presuppositions and of the attitude of the critic towards traditional views is particularly good. The book is one that is well suited for junior theological students and for intelligent laymen who desire to get some clear idea of a subject that is a good deal more talked about than understood. The volume has a full index and is conveniently arranged for reference.

The December number of *The Preachers' Magazine*, Wilbur B. Ketcham, New York, contains 37 pages of sermons and sermonio material drawn from both sides of the Atlantic, much of it having special reference to the Christmas season. It includes contributions from Dr. Berry, Dr. Parker, Mark Guy Pearse and S. Baring Gould as well as from others whose names are not yet so well-known. The subscription price is \$1.50 per year in advance with a great variety of premium offers tempting to lovers of wholesome religious books.

Sceptical Homage to Christ, being Concessions of Unbelievers to the Person and Teaching of Jesus, by George Sexton, M.A., M.D., LL.D., etc. Toronto, W. Briggs, Methodist Book Room, 25 cents.

This is one of the most useful little books that we have seen for a long time. It contains a great number of quotations from the sceptical writers both of the present day and of the past, in which they are shown to have conceded so much to Christ and Christianity as to make their position not simply untenable but ridiculous. The book is unique of its kind and displays a vast amount of reading of sceptical works on the part of the author. It is calculated to do great good and should have a large sale.

The December number of the *Electric Magazine* comprises a score or so of articles selected from the standard foreign periodicals, with a special view to interesting American readers, and giving a wide and general variety of subject and treatment. From the sedate and sober ethical and scientific articles with which this monthly generally begins, to the short sketches from *Temple Bar* and fiction reprinted from such lighter publications as the *Cornhill* and the *Gentleman's Magazine*, there is not one selection in this magazine which does not repay perusal. The opening article is by W. S. Lilly, and is entitled "The New Spirit in History." Worthy of its place next is Professor Ford's thoughtful, if somewhat materialistic, "Ethical Solution of our Social Problem." The third of the trio of articles in this vein is from the *English National Review* and is a discussion of "Gaps in Agnostic Evolution." "The English Officer—as he was and as he is," as described by Col. H. Knollys, will be found a valuable and interesting paper. "The Story of Stamboulloff's Fall," is likewise a good article. From other titles on the Index, we select at random, "A Medical View of the Miracles at Lourdes," "Book Collecting as a Fine Art," "Michaelmas Term at Oxford," "An Indian Station," "Cranford Souvenirs," and "When We Were Boys."

A new biography of George Washington, by Professor Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, will be a feature of *Harpers Magazine* during 1896. The first paper, which appears in the January Number, treats of the conditions of the colonies, with special reference to Virginia at the time of Washington's birth. The paper is fully illustrated with the earliest known portrait of Washington, five drawings by Howard Pyle, and other pictures.

From the Plum Pudding on its cover to the last page the Christmas number of *Harpers Round Table* fairly breathes Christmas.

WINTER EVENING GAME.

It is pleasing to notice that many of our large publishing houses, at this season of the year, turn their attention to the requirements of the little people. Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co., of Toronto, have made a special effort in the direction, and have placed upon the market a large number of interesting and at the same time instructive games for children, suitable for holiday gifts. Among the cheaper games might be mentioned "Bible Pictures," which is very instructive, the "Authors," which familiarizes the player with books and quotations, and "Fore-sight" and exceedingly interesting game. Among the larger games for older players might be mentioned the *Louise*, *Steeple-Tennis*, *Junior*, and *Harrah*. Any or all of these will do much to make winter evenings pleasant for the young folks.