

TALKS ABOUT BOOKS.

Mr. John Young, of the Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, sends to the JOURNAL "The Ascent Through Christ," by the Rev. E. Griffith-Jones, B.A. This is a 469 page crown 8vo. in cloth, published by James Bowden of London, and sells for a dollar and a quarter. It has received the warmest commendation from Dr. Marcus Dods, Professor Iverach, and other competent authorities. The second title of the volume, which explains its purport, is "A Study of the Doctrine of Redemption in the Light of the Theory of Evolution." The author accepts the definition of Evolution as "a continuous progressive change according to certain laws, such as those of heredity, differentiation or spontaneity, and of the progress of the whole; but cautions the reader about adding "by means of resident forces" until he can include therein "the idea of God, without identifying Him with the physical order in and through which Evolution takes place." He adopts Drummond's three miracles of evolution, by which the inorganic became a life organism, the organism a sentient being, and the sentient being a self-conscious spirit. Mr. Griffith-Jones is thus a theistic and Christian evolutionist like Drummond, Le Conte, and Fiske. He seems to have the whole literature of the subject at his fingers ends, and to possess a large acquaintance with recent theological lore. His style is rather too argumentative to be very light reading, although it is always clear and comprehensible, and his pages are occasionally illumined with gleams of eloquence. Very grave difficulties meet him, which he does not shirk; but his solution of them often is far from satisfactory. Always reverent, he at times takes sad liberties with the Old Testament story, and occasionally exaggerates unnecessarily the divergences between scientific discovery and Bible statement. Thus Genesis i., 14-18, places the creation of the heavenly bodies after that of vegetation, and to this Mr. Griffith-Jones objects, as, no doubt, do all the readers of the JOURNAL. But M. Jules Janin, about forty years ago, in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*,