

Book Notices.

Geological Studies: or Elements of Geology for High Schools, Colleges, Normal and other Schools, with 367 illustrations. By ALEXANDER WINCHELL, LL.D. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo., pp. 513. Price \$3.00.

The Messrs. Griggs & Co., of Chicago, have added another to their series of high-class educational works. Prof. Winchell has won a distinguished reputation as a luminous writer on geological topics. His charming "Sketches of Creation," published many years ago, has stimulated thousands to the study of this fascinating department of natural science. The present volume embodies the results of his lengthened experience as a discoverer and lecturer. The first, and to our mind most important, part of the work is devoted to the inductive study of the subject—the only proper method, we judge. He begins with the examination of the common geological formations around the student, and teaches him to cultivate his own powers of observation and reflection. He then studies the constitution of the rocks, and the phenomena of sedimentation, erosion, stratification, eruption and the like. This method will develop original observers and thinkers, instead of book-crammed chamber-geologists. The second half of the book is adapted for senior students, and treats the science systematically. It begins with the chemistry of the rocks, and their structural character. Chapter three is on dynamical geology—the agency of water, winds, heat, seismic and tidal action. Then comes the progress of terrestrial life and historical geology. The engravings are very numerous and really illustrate the subject. For either private study or

college use we know no superior text-book.

The Miraculous Element in the Gospels. By ALEXANDER BALMAIN BRUCE, D.D. 8vo., pp. 390. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$2.50.

We reviewed with high commendation some years since, Dr. Bruce's admirable lectures on "The Parabolic Teaching of Christ." This volume, though constructed on a different method, may be regarded as complementary to that work. It consists of ten lectures on the "Ely Foundation," delivered in Union Theological Seminary. They discuss the subject of miracles in relation to theories of the universe, in relation to the order of nature, to the apostolic witnesses, to the evangelic records, to exegesis; in relation to the worker, and to the Christian revelation. Two closing chapters discuss the great moral miracle—the Christ of the Church and of history; and Christianity without a miracle. Even without the admission of a miracle, Jesus is still "a hero of moral sincerity, a prince of philanthropists, and a paragon of ethical teachers." And our author shows that the religion practised by Jesus cannot be practised by unbelievers. Throughout the discussions of the volume the Gospels are regarded "not from the view point of a strict doctrine of inspiration, from that of substantial historicity." While this is not the highest point of view, the author contends that it is the one which is most germane to apologetic inquiries. The views of Prof. Fiske, Prof. Drummond, Prof. Huxley, Renan, Strauss, Wiess, Spencer, Schleiermacher, and the leading writers who have discussed the subject, are fully and fairly examined.