

Catchy Themes.

EVERYBODY is after "catchy" themes and statements in these days. A well-known preacher, supplying a prominent pulpit in the absence of the pastor, took for his text, "Thy Word is a lamp," pronouncing lamp as if spelled lomp. The divisions of his sermon were: (1) The Word of God is a kitchen lomp; (2) The Word of God is a dining-room lomp; (3) The Word of God is a sitting-room lomp; (4) The Word of God is a parlor lomp. He only forgot to insist that "the Word of God is a sleeping-room lomp." Everything was in keeping, and the people thought it was "as good as a circus." One is sometimes reminded by these pulpit vagaries of Lorenzo Dow's sermon on the Bible text "Top not come down" (Matt. xxiv. 17), addressed to some vain young women in his audience, who took the highest seats in order to show off their new bonnets to the best advantage. Is there not enough to be found that has in-

tense legitimate interest, with which to attract and hold the people?

Timely Expository Preaching.

IN contradistinction to the preaching criticized above there is a kind of expository preaching that is called for just at the present time, preaching that shall bring out the organic unity of the Bible as a whole, of the single books of the Bible, and of those parts of the books that embody in connected statement the cardinal doctrines of revelation. The editors of THE REVIEW hope to be of special service to ministers in this particular line. Such preaching will naturally counteract the deadening, blinding influence of the atmosphere of destructive criticism that we are constantly breathing. The people feel the need of it. Experience has proved it to be a most popular as well as profitable form of preaching. Farrar's "Messages of the Books" originated in such preaching.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND SIMILES.

THE DAUGHTERS OF NIGHT.—An allegory in the old Jewish Talmud teaches that the demons are all children of four daughters of Night—Lilith, Naama, Agrath, and Mahalath. Their assembling place is on Mount Nishpah, the Mount of Twilight toward the North. King Solomon rules them all and makes them do his pleasure. Who are those four daughters of the Night, mothers of the demons, and sources of all the vices that degrade and devastate the nature of man? Lilith is ignorance, the mortal foe of childhood and of all instruction. Naama is false pleasure, the mortal foe of all self-discipline, the demon-mother of the widespread shame and horrible misery caused by every form of drink and impurity. Agrath is she who fills the world with foul fiction and every form of corrupting literature. Mahalath is the mortal foe of pure religion and undefiled, the demon-mother of superstition and Pharisaism, and of every form of false religion and false devotion. The offspring of these demon-mothers meet on the dark and dreary mountains, and go to the North, that is, to the region of death and ruin; but Solomon, that is, reason and heavenly wisdom, can subdue them, and make them serve his will. Christianity, with the help of God's grace, can expel the curse of Lilith or Ignorance, by large and loving Christian education; it can make

Naama or Pleasure, the handmaid not of pollution but of innocence and noble self-control; it can make Agrath, Literature and Art, the minister to purity and holiness; it can purge Mahalath or False Religion, from formalism and hollowness and help her to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit which grow on the tree of life in the Paradise of God. It can destroy the offspring of Night, and fill the world with the "children of the Day."—Farrar.

ELOQUENCE FROM THE PEWS.

True eloquence is forced out of men. . . . The looking people make the eloquent preachers. All the people fastened their eyes upon Peter and John (see Acts xii. 12); and, as the lame man had drawn out of Peter spiritual power by his magnetic look, so the people drew out of Peter still higher power by their marveling—their skeptical yet gracious wonder."—Joseph Parker.

FAITH ESSENTIAL TO LIFE.

Let us never be so foolish as to think that it makes no difference whether we believe or not. Faith is the soul of conduct; faith is the bloom, the breath, the vital power of religion; without it, virtue is the alabaster box, empty; faith is the precious ointment whose fragrance fills the house. Therefore, without faith it is impossible to please God.—Henry Van Dyke.