

TALKS ABOUT BOOKS.

The Cure of Souls, being the Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching, at Yale University, 1896, by John Watson, M.A., D.D., is published by the Fleming H. Revell Company, but is sent to the Journal by Messrs. Drvsdale & Co. Ian Maclaren's nine lectures on preaching and pastoral theology make up 300 large-printed pages, which contain a good deal of wisdom. The lectures are all good, from the first on the Genesis of a Sermon, to the last on the Minister's Care of Himself, full of earnest, devout thinking, the fruit of much experience and observation and admirable common sense. The lecturer also displays much of his native humor, making fun of the mechanical sermon maker, and of pulpit helps in the shape of books of illustrations and quotations, of discourses composed of much diluted Hodge, and of the people who cry down theology. While allowing that criticism has on the whole been helpful to the minister, he prophesies its decline, and its possible supersedence by mysticism, but his New Dogma is simply the complete Divine Revelation in Jesus Christ, which people, he thinks, mistakenly, call the simple gospel. In dealing with the machinery of a congregation, he shews that the church edifice is of great importance, and, as to its government, maintains one man rule, and that man, the minister. The lecture on the work of a pastor is very complete, and steers a golden mean between over-studiousness, ecclesiasticism, and professionalism on the one hand, and clerical gadding about on the other. Concerning the Public Worship of God, he says: 'If public worship is to feed faith in her straits, and fill the soul with heavenliness, then it must be a beautiful function, to which the minister in our day ought to give loving study and attention.' Some ministers and choir leaders are no more fit to make worship a beautiful function than a monkey and a parrot would be. Beauty is not in their bones and will, there-