

Book Notice.

The Divine Art of Preaching. Lectures delivered at the "Pastor's College," connected with the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, England, from January to June, 1892. By ARTHUR T. PIERSON. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

This book might well be called the divine art of teaching as well as the divine art of preaching, and is almost as well adapted to Sunday-school teachers as for young preachers. It is well known that Dr. Pierson has been ably filling the pulpit of the late lamented Charles Spurgeon in the largest Protestant Church in the world. These lectures are plain, pithy, pointed talks to the Baptist students of the college established by Mr. Spurgeon. Among the subjects treated are: "The Preacher Among His Books," "With His Themes," "Training His Memory," "Among the Critics," "With His Bible," "In His Library," "Among Snakes," "Among His People," and "Communing With the Spirit." Some of the points are so very well made that we shall have occasion to quote them more fully hereafter.

The following extract shows both the piety and common sense of the lecturer: "The themes treated in the modern pulpit, as well as the sensational announcements by which they are heralded, often make us blush with shame. They are travesties upon preaching. The connection of many a so-called 'sermon' with the Word is fictitious or factitious; the robe of a tawdry rhetoric is substituted for a divine simplicity of speech. For lack of specific gravity, specific levity abounds, and the pulpit becomes a place for secular entertainment, if not for clownish buffoonery."

He quotes the following sensational announcements of some American sermons: "Short beds and narrow coverings," "Errors of police courts," "Pretty Women," "Boomerangs and Monkeys," etc. This, of course, was in the United States. We have never seen anything like this in Canada, and we hope we never shall.

How Can I Win My Scholars to Christ?

By having the life of Christ as your model, His thoughts in clear, cleanly-cut outlines in your mind, and His motives the energies to direct your movements. That a man may speak a language with power he must do his thinking in that language; likewise that a man may speak the words of Christ with effect, his meditation of the words must be in the Spirit of Christ. The thoughts of Christ must flow out of him as fragrance from the rose, as eloquence from heart-oratory. He must have not only knowledge, but the life of truth. The words of Christ are the words of the Eternal Word; they have the ideas of the eternal reason, and are the incarnation of the breathing

of eternal life. We may expect the fire of inspiration wrapped up in them. Brooding over them will bring into them the breath of the Spirit. By this inspiration the dry bones of the letter will live, stand upon their feet an exceedingly great army, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. By secret communication with Christ His words become instinctive with energy, warm and palpitating, the very cloven tongues of Pentecost. They give inspiration, "put a soul under the ribs of death," and "create thoughts that breathe and words that burn." This kind of study is one element of success in winning souls.

Meandering.

A SUPERINTENDENT who really superintends will not meander in a weak and aimless way through the opening exercises, uncertain as to when to begin, and how, casting about him anxiously to see if everybody is ready, fumbling with the hymn book, and flitting through the Bible, and impressing upon you the conviction that he is not at all sure as to what he would be at. What a school wants above all things, and must have, is a leader who comes to his place with his plans prepared, his line of march already determined on—every hymn, every notice, every feature of the service all forecast; and then when, kindly and courteously, but with clear, quick tones, like the stroke of a bell, he gives the word of command, there is apt to be prompt and unquestioning obedience.

There is nothing so demoralizing as a hesitating leader, who never knows his own mind, and is utterly at the mercy of circumstances, and on the other hand there is nothing that so develops the *esprit de corps* of an organization, whether it be an army or a Sunday-school, as the presence of a leader who confidently leads.
—Baptist Teacher.

LITERARY NOTE.—A sermonic exposition or homiletic suggestion on every paragraph or verse of the Old Testament, that can be used to advantage in the preparation of sermons, is contained in "The Preacher's Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Old Testament," which the Funk & Wagnalls Company issued on January 20th, last. This vast Commentary is by twenty distinguished Biblical scholars, and is highly commended by representative men among the clergy of the various denominations. "It is," says the Bishop of Central New York, "an original and unique addition to the critical apparatus of men engaged in the practical work of the ministry." The work is in twenty octavo volumes, has over twelve thousand pages, copious indices in each volume; besides a complete index volume to the entire series. It exhibits the homiletic possibilities of thousands of texts, and will doubtless prove a great granary for homiletic thought and illustration.