

GUILD OF THEOLOGICAL STUDY.

SEVERAL important books have appeared during the last summer and autumn to which the attention of members of the Guild should be directed. Of these the most permanently valuable is probably Geden and Moulton's *Concordance to the Greek Testament*. Possibly the exclusive value of the concordance to the ordinary student is at times over emphasized, for although it is very well for Bishop Westcott to say that he requires no other help than this and his Greek Testament, we must remember that the Bishop is a ripe scholar with a well-stored mind. It is doubtful whether we average people would be wise in despising the help we get from the condensed thought of the past and the present that a good commentary should afford. But while this is so, any student worth the name must be helpless without a good concordance, inasmuch as when we have received a certain training and adopted good methods of work, it will enable us to arrive at a reliable, original, and therefore living understanding of the teaching of the Scriptures. Among the most illuminating studies for an expounder of the Bible is to trace some word big with meaning through different passages in which it occurs, marking the distinctive turn that each writer gives it, and so winning a rich and first-hand treasure of Christian thought.

Hitherto, the great concordance to the Greek New Testament was Bruder, but since his day textual criticism has made vast progress. The old Textus Receptus has given way to the Revisers' text, or preferably to Westcott and Hort; while along with these, critics such as Tischendorf and Scrivener have decided opinions as to the correctness of other readings. In addition to this, much valuable work has of late been done on the LXX which has been brought within reach by the excellent concordance of Hatch and Redpath. And further, the grammar of N. T. Greek has been scientifically studied, and its relations to the classical and later languages more accurately defined.