

which came the gift of the Holy Ghost. Such are the main features of a book, to which few theologians, even of the confessionally orthodox, can take exception, and which may be recommended as an eminently clear and evangelical exposition.

Since this Talk was begun, the Fleming H. Revell Company has sent two volumes to the JOURNAL. They are both by the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, D.D., the successor of Dr. Lyman Abbott in the Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. Dr. Hillis is not a Lyman Abbott, nor is he a Beecher, not a startling original thinker, nor an apologist for evolution; he is rather an evangelical character builder, and a Christian apostle of sweetness and light. He has read extensively, and he writes well, chiefly on literary themes that pertain sometimes to the heart, sometimes to the outskirts, of Christianity, and all his sympathies are evangelical in the best sense of that much abused term. His larger volume is "Great Books as Life Teachers," a 339 page duodecimo, in cloth gilt, with gilt top, price a dollar and a half. There are twelve essays, discourses, or studies in this volume, in all of which standard literature is made a study in morals. Part of Dr. Hillis' preface is so important to modern preachers as to call for full quotation. "In this era, when fiction is increasingly the medium of amusement and instruction, and when the great poets and essayists are becoming the prophets of a new social order, it seems important to remember that the great novelists are consciously or unconsciously teachers of morals, while the most fascinating essays and poems are essentially books of aspiration and spiritual culture. Lest the scope of these studies be misunderstood, it should be said that the author approaches these volumes from the view-point of a pastor, interested in literature as a help in the religious life, and seeking to find in these writings bread for those who are hungry, light for those who are in darkness, and life for those who walk in the shadow of death. Leaving to others the problems of literary criticism, these studies emphasize the importance of right thinking in order to right conduct and character, and the uses of great books as aids and incentives to the higher Christian life."