

the books that are submitted to us for judgment. We desire to call attention only to some that may be regarded as especially valuable to the ministry in their preparation for the work of preaching the Gospel.

Six volumes of "The Expositor's Bible" have been received during the year from A. C. Armstrong & Son, New York (\$1.50 each), 2 Kings, by Ven. Archdeacon Farrar; Romans, by H. C. G. Moule, M.A.; 2 Corinthians, by Prof. W. H. Bennett, M.A.; 2 Corinthians, by James Denney, D.D.; Numbers, by R. A. Watson, M.A., D.D.; and The Psalms, vol. iii., by Alexander Maclaren, D.D. Of the value of these volumes too much cannot be said. They represent the condensed thought of some of the best of English expositors. We do not care to compare their relative worth, but we commend as especially suggestive the volumes by Archdeacon Farrar and Dr. Maclaren.

A volume from one of the best-known of our American writers, Henry Clay Trumbull, D.D., editor of *The Sunday-School Times*, is always its own recommendation. "Studies in Oriental Social Life" (John D. Wattles & Co., Philadelphia, \$2.50) throws a flood of light upon the subject treated in it, and gives to Bible students much that is helpful to the understanding of Scriptural allusions to the social customs of the peoples of the East. The fact that these do not vary from century to century, and that the Orient to-day is virtually identical with the Orient of eighteen centuries ago, makes it possible for one to see life as it was familiar to the eyes of Christ, and to experience in it something of what He experienced. Of special interest in the book before us are the pages that treat of hospitality in the East, funerals and mourning in the East, and calls for healing in the East.

Another volume, which pastors will find of special value to them not only in their pulpit preparations but also in their preparations for missionary meet-

ings, monthly concerts of prayer, etc., is "The New Acts of the Apostles," by Arthur T. Pierson, D.D., a name familiar to readers of *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW*. It is concise, compact, and convincing (The Baker-Taylor Co., New York, \$1.50).

#### The Editor's Letter-Box.

*Questions of general interest to clergymen will be printed in this department. The questions sent to us should be put in as brief form as possible. Answers from our readers are requested. They must be (1) brief; (2) preceded by the number of the question to which they reply; (3) the name and address of the writer must accompany each answer. The name of a writer will not be published if we are requested to withhold it.*

A. M.—Do the Hindus still retain their belief in the sanctity of the Ganges?

A. Yes. But its reputation is declining. It is said that the Nerbudda is coming to be regarded as a sacred stream, and bids fair to receive the recognition hitherto enjoyed by its sister river.

MISSIONARY.—What evidences are there that Christianity is making headway in the provinces where Paul's greatest work was done?

A. Statistics show that the last quarter of a century has seen a remarkable advance therein. Places where the Gospel is preached have increased from 155 to 348, evangelical churches from 59 to 124, Sunday attendance from 10,439 to 33,749, Sunday-school pupils from 6,656 to 25,752, common schools from 165 to 400, with pupils from 5,511 to 16,563. More than 20,000 students are found in the various educational institutions.

R. S. P.—What is the secret of the strong anti-Semitic sentiment and movement in Germany?

A. Hitherto it has been regarded as largely ecclesiastical or social. More recently the idea has been advanced that it is due to the fact that the Jews are rapidly acquiring a large proportion of the capital of the nation at the cost of the general impoverishment. It is probable that economic considerations have more to do with it than anything else.