

The Book Page

The New Testament: A New Translation, by Professor James Moffatt, of Mansfield College, Oxford (Hodder and Stoughton, Toronto, 327 pages, \$1.50), reached its second edition within a month of its first issue, and will doubtless pass through many editions. For it is the work of a scholar recognized to be of the very highest rank, and who has the two indispensable additional qualifications of a translator of scripture, namely, genuine, spiritual insight and sympathy, and a rich, varied, homely and forcible vocabulary. Professor Moffatt's intention, as he puts it in the preface, "has been to produce a version which will to some degree represent the gains of recent lexical research and also prove readable. I have attempted to translate the New Testament exactly as one would render any piece of Hellenistic prose." The text used is that recently issued by Von Soden, of Berlin. The originality of the translation is exemplified by the fact, for instance, that in that peerless characterization of love, the Thirteenth of First Corinthians, almost no word is the same as in the ordinary version, and yet every word is gracious and apposite. Many of the hard places are made clearer in this new translation. New and informing turns are given to familiar passages. A single example—"Brother, we charge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to shun any brother who is loafing, instead of following the rule you got from us" (2 Thess. 3:6). The substitution of the familiar "you" for "thou" and "thee" (except in the case of the deity) gives a strange freshness to the Gospels, and especially to the conversations of our Lord with the Twelve.

Professor Moffatt's new translation is, in short, not only a delightful and forcible version, but it is an illuminating commentary as well.

Professor Luering, whose face looks out on page 46 of the six hundred and sixty-four page volume, **World Wide Sunday School Work** (World's Sunday School Association, Metropolitan Tower, New York, \$1.00), is typical of the intent and contents of this fine Report of the great World's Sunday School Convention at Zurich in July last. Professor Luering was the official interpreter of the Convention. He "has preached in twenty-five languages, and reads a dozen more." The Convention was the gathering of Sunday School people from almost every land under the sun—fifty-one countries were on the roll call. Back of these representatives stands a Sunday School enrolment of 28,000,000. The twofold aim of the World's Sunday School Association is to promote a missionary spirit in the Sunday Schools in the home fields, and a Sunday School spirit in mission fields. This account of the proceedings of its triennial Convention embraces the very valuable Reports of the six Commissions, which, by previous correspondence and personal visitation, had covered practically the whole of the missionary world, in study of the Sunday School situation. In addition, all the familiar home Sunday School problems were discussed by experts. The one hundred and twenty-two half-tone cuts, most of them full page, of leaders, groups of delegates, etc., with which the volume is embellished, as well as the Reports, addresses, etc., are of permanent interest.

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