

class to understand more fully the force of what is revealed on any given subject. Human thought and experience in feeling after the truth have often unduly emphasized certain sides and bearings of it ; but this exaggerated emphasis when marked on one side and on another serves to show where the golden mean lies and where the feet of succeeding saints may safely tread. While the practical bearings of the truth are that with which the preacher must mainly deal, the dogmatic conception of it underlies and colours all his exhortations, and is therefore very important.

I purpose to speak on MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. *Modern* in theology may cover anything in the history of doctrine between the Reformation and the present time, but I intend to confine myself to the literature of the last thirty years, which may fairly be held to be representative of the state of opinion on the subject now.

I. THE ECCLESIASTICAL THEORY. In this the Church is held to be, either the sole agency through which the Spirit acts on the individual man, or such an important factor in the process as to overshadow and dwarf into insignificance all others. This general school of thought may be divided into two divisions on this subject :—

1. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC THEORY. The Latin Church boasts that no part of her teaching is modern—that what she holds now has been held everywhere, always, and by all whom she regards as worthy to bear the Christian name. But while her main dogmatic positions have certainly remained unchanged for centuries, she is too wise to overlook entirely the spirit of the age, or the currents of intense thinking and spiritual consecration to which Protestantism has given rise ; and her preachers and theologians now state such a doctrine as that which we are considering very differently from the way in which a pre-reformation doctor would have stated it.

The Roman Catholic view of the operations of the Holy Spirit on men may be said to start from part of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic