

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Commentaries. DR. PAYNE SMITH has already done good work as a commentator, but, in our judgment, this (1) is a perceptible advance upon any of his previous publications. For confidence of movement and thoroughness of treatment, for evident enjoyment of his theme and mastery of detail, this exposition will not easily be surpassed. And we have also the reverent scholarship and critical acumen which this author always shows. No preacher desiring an intelligent acquaintance with Holy Scripture need look farther for a commentary on the Second Book of Samuel than the one which the Dean of Canterbury has provided. The *Introduction* gives a sketch of David's life, abounding in subtle lines and delicate discrimination that only long pondering over the history could have furnished. Now and again the exposition reveals flashes of spiritual insight, especially as it points out the Divine dealings with the king. To 1 Samuel Dean Payne Smith contributed not only the Exposition but the Homiletics as well. In the present volume he has confined himself to the former, but he frequently adds homiletic hints to his commentary, brief, but wise and pertinent. Professor Chapman prefixes generally to his *Homiletics* a short survey of the "facts" with which he deals. Often he takes a different view of them from that of the Exposition. The lessons he draws are usually suggestive and skilfully put; and if one should agree rather with the Dean's interpretation, it is easy to make the necessary alteration. The evidence of independent study is itself valuable, and the choice of interpretations helpful to the preacher. The number of homilists is assuredly too small. But they cover their ground very fairly, and each has distinctive characteristics. Mr. B. Dale writes upon nearly the entire book, preferring, as his text, sections to passages. Mr. G. Wood selects particular texts as they commend themselves to him. Both are fresh and thoughtful. Altogether, this is one of the most satisfactory volumes in the Old Testament series.

From Adam to Abraham; or, Lessons on the First Fourteen Chapters of Genesis (2) is too realistic and mechanical for present-day teaching. Difficulties are intentionally avoided.