

The themes, for the most part, are well chosen, and they are treated with ability, and with an eye to the present modes of thought and conditions of religious life.—“Studies in the Gospel according to St. John,” by Rev. J. C. Jones, author of “Studies in St. Matthew,” “Studies in the Acts,” etc. Same publishers. The book contains sixteen chapters or sermons treating of the leading topics of John’s Gospel. It is sound in its exposition of Scripture truth, and evangelical in spirit. While it expresses no new views, it presents the old doctrines of the orthodox faith in a clear, consistent and strong light.

Periodicals.

Methodist Review (Bi-monthly), March. “The Franco-Chinese Imbroglia,” by Erastus Wentworth, D.D., is a very readable article based on three separate books, which appeared last year, on this subject; one by the late Capt. Norman, of the 90th Light Infantry (Bengal); one by a Major-General in the Imperial Chinese Army, and the other giving the history of France in Tonkin down to 1883. All sides of the perplexing question involved in the present strife going on in the far East are thus presented. And from such data, presumed to be reliable, the writer gives us an intelligent and connected account of the whole affair, the real merits of which are but little understood, even in our most intelligent circles.

Lutheran Quarterly (Jan.) We note as among its readable papers, “Christ and the Theology of His Day,” by Prof. George H. Schodde; “Morals in the Meshes of the Brain,” by Prof. W. H. Wynn, of Iowa State College; “The Influence of Beneficiary Education Upon the Character of the Ministry,” by Rev. Charles E. Hay, of Allentown, Pa.

The New Englander (March). Among the leading papers of this number is, “A Sketch of the Life and Services of the late S. Wells Williams, D.D.,” by Henry Blodgett, Peking, China. It was fitting that the associate of this distinguished missionary in China and his intimate friend, should pay this deserved tribute to his memory. Williams was a remarkable man. His long residence in China and rare personal qualities, gave him great influence in that kingdom, both with the Government and the people. He understood the language, history and characteristics of that strange people probably better than any other man of his day. Sent out in 1832 to take charge of the mission press at Canton, the only Protestant missionaries he found in China proper were Morrison, Bridgman and Abel. His labors were unbounded. Work after work appeared from his prolific pen, and finally a complete Dictionary of the Chinese language in 1874. His “Middle Kingdom” is a monument of patient labor, and is worth all other modern works on China in the way of accurate and trustworthy information. It takes high rank abroad, as well as at home. He held the office of Secretary of Legation from our country

for years, and in the absence of a resident minister, which often occurred, he acted as *Chargé d’Affaires*. His services were held in the highest esteem by our Government. The securing of the clause respecting the toleration of Christianity in the American treaty with China was almost entirely due to his exertions. For some years past he has been Professor of the Chinese Language and Literature in Yale College.

The Popular Science Monthly (March). “Medical Expert Testimony,” by Frank Hastings Hamilton, M.D. This paper has been called forth by the severe criticisms which have been made in the daily press, and occasionally in the medical journals, in reference to the testimony of medical experts. The paper aims to vindicate the profession from the charge of venality and incapacity, and to show how exceedingly difficult it is to give testimony, in the class of cases in which their opinion is invoked—usually a nice question of mental capacity and moral responsibility—respecting which honest and capable experts may differ in judgment. The Doctor makes a good point in showing that the arguments employed will apply with equal force to expert testimony in any other department of medicine or of science. At a time when “expert testimony” is so often put in requisition in our courts of justice, this article will be read with interest.

The North American Review (April) has for its leading paper “A Study of Prison Management,” by Charles Dudley Warner, which is both timely and interesting. The writer claims that our failure in the handling of criminals with reference to their reformation is mainly due to the fact that we have considered the problem as a physical one, and not psychological. The aim has been to improve prisons and the physical condition and environment of prisoners. The effort has been directed by sentiment rather than upon principles of economy and a study of human nature. Mr Warner asserts that the revolt in the public mind against what is called the “coddling” system, is justified by facts and results. His proposition is, that there is very little difference between our worst State-prisons and our best, so far as the reformatory effects produced upon the criminal class is concerned. And to prove this, he cites as a prison of the old type the one at Wethersfield, Conn., and of the modern type, the new State-prison at Cranston, R. I., a new, handsome, granite building, with all “modern improvements.” He notices at length and highly commends the Reformatory at Elmira, considering it, in its mode of treatment, and the results, the model penal institution of the country; and yet we believe this same Reformatory is at present under “investigation” for alleged abuses by a Committee of the Legislature of New York.

Andover Review (April). The chief articles in the number are, “Social Problems in the Pulpit” and “The Moral Purpose of the Later American Novel.” The first contains the initial of