

that are needed to make the opening years of the Twentieth Century the years of the conquest of the world for Christ.

Sensationalism Run Mad.

"A sensational preacher in Cadillac, Mich., illustrated a sermon on the tobacco habit by poisoning two cats with nicotin and allowing them to die on the platform from which he was speaking. His name is omitted here for the obvious reason that the desire to see it in print was probably one of the strong impulses that led him to this cruelty. Max O'Rell, in one of his books, tells of a preacher who illustrated to his congregation the 'facile descent,' which is said to be often made by way of exit from this life, by sliding down the hand-rail of the steps which led from his pulpit. This was striking and picturesque, no doubt, but the Michigan minister holds the record for extravagant effects in the line of an 'illustrated sermon.'"

We quote this paragraph from one of our leading dailies in order that it may point its own moral. Aside from the fact that such exhibitions of cruelty in the pulpit can never be justified,

they are revolting in the extreme. It is sensationalism run mad!

Christianity a Creed for a Life.

The statement is so often dinned in our ears in these days, that "Christianity is not a creed, but a life," that this deadly half-truth often wins acceptance as new and essential truth. The truth is that Christianity is both a creed and a life. It is a life based on a creed, or doctrine, or teaching. Paul exhorted Timothy, first of all, "Take heed to thy doctrine," or teaching. Rational religious life must root itself in religious truth, or doctrine, or teaching. Christianity is a great system of doctrine to be taught for the life of the individual soul and for the life of the world. It is a doctrine for life—that is a truth that should be emphasized just now. If there is to be an increase in the depth and fervor and power of our Christian life, it must come, as in the past, in connection with a great dogmatic revival.

NOTICES OF BOOKS OF HOMILETIC VALUE.

PEOPLE'S COMMENTARY ON THE ACTS. Giving the Common Version, 1611, the Revised Version, 1881 (American Readings and Renderings), with Critical, Exegetical, and Applicative Notes, and Illustrations from Life and History in the East. By Edwin W. Rice, D.D. The American Sunday-School Union, Philadelphia, 1896. Price, \$1.25.

This full descriptive title shows the large scope and value of the work. It is the fifth in Dr. Rice's admirable series of People's Commentaries, and will be of great service to all practical Bible students and teachers.

DAVID'S HARP IN SONG AND STORY. By Joseph Waddell Clakey, D.D., with an Introduction by W. J. Robinson, D.D. Pittsburgh: United Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1896. Price, \$1.

This volume is an exceedingly interesting and valuable presentation, from the point of view of the United Presbyterians, of the wonderful place the Psalms have held in past ages in the Christian worship, and a statement of some of the causes that have tended to their comparative disuse in recent times.

JUDAISM: An Exposition in Question and Answer. By the Rev. Barnett A. Elzas, Rabbi of K. K. Beth-Elohim. Charleston, S. C.: The Daggitt Printing Company, 5,656-1896. Price, 10 cents.

This pamphlet of 30 pages gives in succinct form a statement of the fundamental principles of modern Judaism. As the pamphlet is a reprint from the Jewish "Sabbath-

School Companion," the statement may be looked upon as being as nearly official as is obtainable.

DISCOURSES ON THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS. By Rev. Frederick A. Noble, D.D., Pastor Union Congregational Church, Chicago, Ill. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, Chicago, Toronto, 1896. Price, \$1.25.

Several months since we took occasion to notice Dr. Noble's admirable volume of topical sermons, "The Divine Life in Man," etc. The present volume shows that he is equally at home in continuous homiletic exposition of an entire Book of Scripture. He could not have chosen a portion of Scripture better suited to the uplift of his people, to whom the volume is affectionately dedicated, than that Epistle in which Paul sets forth the loving purpose of God in its relation to the ideal Christian life.

FAITH AND SOCIAL SERVICE. Eight Lectures Delivered before the Lowell Institute. By George Hodges, Dean of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass. New York: Thomas Whittaker, 1896. Price, \$1.25.

This is the work of a fresh and vigorous writer who has devoted much time to the study of the social problems that he treats, and who has done his own thinking upon them. The volume treats of "The New Forces," "Indifference," "Doubt," "Poverty," "Labor," "Moral Reform," "The City," "The Divided Church." It will be found stimulating and helpful.