

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY doubtless once received too exclusive attention; to-day it is too much neglected, if not despised. Hence to a great extent may be traced a loss of power in the pulpit. The maudlin sentimentality, unhealthy excitement and unbecoming effeminacy in churches, are due to a wretchedly weak and thin theological diet. Few possibly, when once in the full rush of present-day activities, can secure the requisite leisure for investigating for themselves religious questions, through Patristic, Mediæval, Puritan and Caroline periods of literature. Hence earnest-minded but busy men, as well as regular theological students, should be thankful for the services of the Roosevelt Professor, as a guide through the range of theology by the nearest cuts, consistently with safe traveling (6). The lines are well laid down. All branches of dogma are grouped around its principal subjects, viz., GOD, MAN (it ought to have been "*His creatures, viz., angels and men*"); the GOD-MAN, His Person and Work (possibly there should have been added *The Church*). In the scheme presented there is no natural place for Angelology and Hagiography. As religion, philosophy and science meet in *Theologica Polemica*, it is rightly regarded as an appendix to theology. Again, there is no mistaking the standpoint of the writer. The general type of doctrine is the Augustino-Calvinistic, and it even differs from that of the general run of contemporary treatises by resembling the elder Calvinism rather than the later. The Traducian theory, too, of the origin of the soul, is elaborately maintained, and perhaps gives a tincture to the whole work. Still, whether the theological position be questioned, or in part only be accepted, the reader will find abstruse and knotty questions fairly handled in a powerful and remarkably perspicuous manner; while those who stand by the old as contrasted with modern thought need not be ashamed of their champion. The weakness, for instance, of the Evolutionist theory, as a rival to the Bible account of Creation, has rarely been so strikingly exhibited within a moderate compass, as in chapter VIII. The chief charm of the book is the reducing to a minimum the difficulty and dulness connected with many problems, complex in themselves or rendered so by controversialists.

Dr. Shedd possesses the art and the genius which enables him to express the truths which profound thinkers either saw indistinctly themselves, or were unable by mental exhaustion, or some defect in their mode of thought or training, to present in a straightforward and simple manner.

(6) *Dogmatic Theology*. By William G. T. Shedd, D.D., Roosevelt Professor of Systematic Theology in Union Theological Seminary, New York. 2 vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. 1889. Price 25s.