

souls, such men are fully the peers of those who enter our seminaries from the colleges. Their lack of classical training ought not to debar them from the advantage of the thorough study of Theology, Church History, and Biblical Interpretation. The seminary that shall provide for such men, and perhaps women too, a training that will place them on a par in position with others will confer a lasting blessing on the country, and give an impetus and a dignity to the ministerial office of incalculable benefit.

"Never flunk. If at any time you are not prepared with your lesson, and have a good excuse, give it to

the professor; if not, get up, and do the best you can." This piece of advice, given by a teacher to a student just entering college, and most successfully followed by him, has an application to almost all lines of life. Many a man fails because he has not the grit to go ahead when advance seems impossible. A minister gets discouraged over the preparation of a sermon, and in so. of despair takes an old one. There are occasions when an old sermon may be used with great advantage, but to take one simply because a man cannot do with a new one as well as he would like to, is apt to be a most unwise confession of weakness, if not of failure.

BRIEF NOTES ON BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO CLERGYMEN.

BY J. M. SHERWOOD.

A. C. Armstrong & Son. "Lectures on the History of Preaching," by the late Rev. John Ker, D.D. 12mo, pp. 407. The author of these Lectures stood in the front rank of the preachers of Scotland, and indeed of his age. The first volume of his printed sermons, "The Day Dawn and the Rain" (1869), is now in its thirteenth edition. He filled for some years, prior to his lamented death, the chair of Practical Training for the Ministry in the Theological Seminary of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland with marked acceptance. For this service he was eminently fitted. And "he went into it," says Dr. Wm. M. Taylor in his Preface, "with all his heart, and in this volume we have a specimen in the manner in which he dealt with, at least, one part of the field which had been intrusted to him. The opening Historical Lectures, without being exhaustive, are eminently rich, and his treatment of the German Pulpit, which forms the main part of the work, is, so far as we know, the fullest which has yet been given in the English language." "For thoughtful preachers," says a critic, "this volume would prove more helpful than most helps for the pulpit."

"The Book of Genesis," by Marcus Dods, D.D.

"The Book of Isaiah," by Rev. George Adam Smith.

"The Epistle to the Hebrews," by Thomas Charles Edwards, D.D.

"The Epistle to the Galatians," by Rev. Professor G. C. Findlay, B.A.

"The Pastoral Epistles," by Alfred Plummer, D.D.

The above five volumes, all from the press

of the Armstrongs, belong to the Second Series of the "Expositor's Bible," edited by Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, editor of "The London Expositor." The value of this work is already widely recognized. The volumes vary, of course, as to value and interest, but the two series, twelve volumes in all, taken as a whole, are probably not surpassed by any existing commentary. The writers^s are among the foremost Biblical scholars, preachers and theologians of the day. The plan here carried out avoids the prolixity and tediousness of detail of the scientific commentary. The chief salient features of each book are selected, analyzed, illustrated and interpreted by thoroughly competent scholars selected with special reference to their fitness for a particular book. "The Epistle to the Hebrews," by Principal Edwards, to name no other in the series, is a model of Biblical exposition. He gives us the mature results of broad and accurate scholarship, exegetical tact, and a firm grasp of the great principles underlying the gospel as expounded by Paul, presented in a style so simple, lucid and attractive that no intelligent reader can fail to comprehend and appreciate. The price at which these volumes are offered—\$12 for the twelve volumes—is a powerful temptation. Gotten up in excellent style, and averaging nearly five hundred pages to the volume, they are a marvel of cheapness.

Charles Scribner's Sons. "First and Fundamental Truths, being a Treatise on Metaphysics," by James McCosh, D.D., LL.D. 12mo, pp. 360. This volume is a fitting close to the literary work and life of one of the leading philosophical thinkers and writers