

study of the parables of our Lord. By Alexander Balmain Bruce, D.D. The author is Professor of Apologetics and New Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, Glasgow. It is not extravagant praise to say that this work deserves to take the front rank in works on Biblical exegesis. We do not think its equal can be found in treating the parables. Systematic and critical, scholarly and thorough, reverent in spirit, and careful and sound in its teachings, it is a work which no minister should think of dispensing with. It is brought out in a style worthy of its intrinsic worth—"Contrary Winds, and other Sermons," by William M. Taylor, D.D., LL.D. Third thousand. The twenty-four discourses here presented to the public by the popular pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, "are printed now as they were preached at first." The cordial reception given to his former volume, entitled "The Limitations of Life, and other Sermons" (already 4th edition issued), moved the author, "at the urgent solicitation of his friends and publishers," to give the present work. We do not wonder at the popularity of Dr. Taylor's sermons, for they are admirable specimens of the best type of preaching. His conspicuous qualities are thoughtfulness, clearness, scripturalness, robustness of thought, methodical arrangement, sturdy sense, plainness, and fidelity. And it is certainly a happy omen when such sermons are popular, and frequent editions of them are sold. It indicates that the public are becoming satiated with the flashy and sensational style of preaching which has extensively prevailed during the last few years, and are glad to get hold of such sensible, vigorous, and instructive discourses as are preached from the Broadway Tabernacle pulpit.

*The Ohio Publishing Co.*—"Crumbs of Comfort," by Rev. William Hollinshed; with an introduction, by Rev. P. Barker. This unpretending volume, as its title indicates, does not aim to meet the fastidious tastes of the intellectual epicure, but to minister, in a humble way, to the needy and distressed, and to lend a helping hand to the burdened one in his ascent up the hill "Difficulty." It breathes the Christian spirit throughout, and in its modest mission may help to feed and cheer the children of God.

*Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society.*—"Ned Harwood's Delight; or, The Home of the Giants," by Mrs. S. G. Knight. "The Academy Boys in Camp," by Mrs. S. F. Spear. We are not of the number who pass by Sunday-school books as of trivial moment; on the contrary, we believe their influence is prodigious on the formative minds and character of our children and youth. No graver responsibility, scarcely, devolves upon pastors, parents, and teachers in our Sunday-schools, than that which relates to the books provided and the music used in the great army gathered and being taught in the Sunday-schools of the land. From long and painstaking examination and observation, we are thoroughly satisfied that a very large

proportion of our Sunday-school literature is wholly unfit for so sacred a use, both on mental and religious grounds, and is pernicious in its influence. It is the imperative duty of pastors, superintendents and teachers to look into this matter, and scan the libraries in use in their schools, and test every new applicant before admitting it to their list. The volumes before us are neat in style and about the average in point of merit; but they fall short of that high standard of excellence which books designed for so high and important a purpose should invariably possess.

*Funk and Wagnalls.*—"Thirty Thousand Thoughts," covering a Comprehensive Circle of Religious and Allied Topics gathered from the best available sources, of all ages and schools of Thought; the whole arranged upon a scientific basis. Edited by Canon Spence, Rev. Jos. S. Exell, and Rev. Charles Neil; with Introduction by J. S. Howson, D.D., Dean of Chester. It is impossible to convey to the reader a full idea of the character and value of this unique and immense work. It is a comprehensive illustration book, combining all the advantages of a "commonplace" book, a "compendium" of theological literature, arranged for immediate practical use for those too busy to search through libraries for what they need, and a homiletical "encyclopædia" or "dictionary" of illustration. It supplies a want that has long been felt, and cannot fail to be of very great service to ministers and students in general. The American publishers have brought out the expensive work in excellent style, and sell it at a moderate price.—"Pulpit and Grave," a volume of Funeral Sermons and Addresses, etc., edited by E. J. Wheeler, A.M. The object sought by this work is to aid pastors in the performance of funeral services, which, confessedly, are among the most onerous and difficult which pertain to the sacred office. The material has been gathered from a very wide field, at home and abroad—very much of it being prepared expressly for this work, consisting of sermons, outlines, obituary addresses, prayers, classified texts, Scripture readings, death-bed testimonies, funeral etiquette, etc. The editor has spared no pains on the work, and has shown rare taste and judgment in the selection and arrangement of his rich and varied matter. We are confident its merits have but to be known to secure for it a wide mission of usefulness. It is far superior to any other work of a similar kind that we have seen.

#### Periodicals.

HEALING THROUGH FAITH. By R. L. Stanton, D.D. *Presbyterian Review* (Jan.), 31 pp. An exceedingly able and timely article, reviewing Dr. Vincent's July article in the same review; also Dr. Spear's, Dr. Patterson's, and a large number of other contributions on "The Faith Cure," which have been given to the public through various channels. His criticisms of the numer-