

Books and Periodicals Department.

The Elements of Higher Criticism. By Andrew C. Zenos, Professor of Biblical Theology in the McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago. Cloth, 12mo, 268 pp. \$1.00 New York, London, Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Co. For those who have but a hazy idea of what is meant by "The Higher Criticism" this book will be found most valuable, and, indeed, to all classes of readers it will be found useful. The aim and objects of the higher criticism are clearly stated, and a very good historical sketch of the various criticisms that have been applied to the Bible from earliest days to the present is given. The writer is clearly on the side of the old interpretations of Scripture and the conservative attitude towards it; but the matter is likewise viewed very fairly from the standpoint of the critics, whose motives—in most cases—are held to be, not the subversion of the Word of God, but the desire to arrive at the historic truth regarding it. Some of the criticism, of course, to which the Bible has been subjected, has been and still is made from an adverse view—from a desire, in fact, to overthrow it; but such is not the case with all criticism, the standpoint being that the more truthful or genuine the book the more easily should it stand even the merciless treatment of the critic, who, laying aside for the time being all preconceived ideas of inspiration, sets himself mercilessly to investigate everything regarding it in the light of modern science and the enlarged vision which ripe scholarship has opened up to the world. The book that can stand treatment of this kind at the hands of its own natural friends will be benefited, it is held, in the long run, and will be all the more firmly established even in the highest position that may be claimed for it. Certainly between these two classes of critics nothing can remain unsaid that can possibly be urged against traditional beliefs regarding the Bible.

Diocesan Histories—Chester. By Rev. Rupert H. Morris, D.D., F.S.A. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Chester was one of the dioceses grudgingly formed by Henry VIII. out of the spoliation of the monasteries, and therefore its history, as a diocese, dates properly only from the year 1541, when John Bird, the last Abbot of St. Werburgh, at Chester, was made the first bishop. The name John Bird, curiously enough, appears nearly three hundred years afterwards in the list of bishops in John Bird Sumner, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. The author, however, has devoted five very interesting chapters to the history of the Christian Church from early days in the district that afterwards was formed into the diocese of Chester. From it, in modern times, was formed the diocese of Manchester (1847), and Liverpool (1880). These diocesan histories, as issued by the S.P.C.K., are of great interest and value.

(1) *The Sunday at Home*; (2) *The Leisure Hour*; (3) *The Boy's Own Paper*; (4) *The Girls' Own Paper*; and other publications. The Religious Tract Society, 56 Paternoster Row, London.

The Sunday at Home (December) continues "Dr. Adrian," the story of Old Holland, gives some excellent views of Canterbury Cathedral, with a suitable article descriptive of it, presents another installment of Fiji and its people, together with some interesting tales suitable for Sunday reading. In *The Leisure Hour* "The Dreams of Dania" promises to be a bright and entertaining Irish tale; "Old New England" revives thoughts of old colonial days; and "The Soldier's Stratagem" excites admiration for the heroic. The publications for young people are, as usual, helpful and instructive.

(1) *The Expositor* (one shilling); (2) *The Clergyman's Magazine* (sixpence). London: Hodder and Stoughton, Paternoster Row.

The December issue of *The Expositor* contains much excellent literature bearing upon biblical and theological questions. The programme for 1896 is rich in promise, consisting of expositions by the late Rev. Dr. Dale, articles on the Lectionary, by Bishop Ellicott, by Dean Farrar on "Genesis and the Higher Criticism," by Rev. Dr. James Stenney on various subjects, together with many other important contributions.

The Clergyman's Magazine for December has an article on Archdeacon Sinclair, the great London worker, together with many useful notes for sermons and addresses.

The Missionary Review of the World. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co. \$2.50 a year. The December number contains some very interesting and instructive articles on Palestine and the work for the evangelization of the Jews. Besides the comprehensive notes and statistics on these subjects in the Field of Survey, H. H. Jessup, D.D., of Beirut, contributes an article on "The Jews in Palestine," written in his usual powerful style, and dealing with the present situation and prospects, and the duty of Christendom towards them. Rev. Thos. Laurie, for many years a missionary in the East, writes on "The Beginnings of the Education of the Women in Syria," a very readable chapter in the early history of missions. D. H. McKenney, Ph. D., describes the beliefs and worship of the Druses, an important but comparatively little known sect in Syria, who are at present at war with a neighboring sect near Damascus. Other articles of interest find their place, as usual, in this excellent periodical.

The Review of Reviews. New York. \$2.50 a year. The December number, in its "Progress of the World" department, plunges, as usual, into the discussion of important current topics. The assembling of the Fifty-fourth Congress at home, and the undisturbed condition of Turkey and some of the European powers at this moment, present questions which call for extended comment this month. The editor also devotes several paragraphs to the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela, and the results of the recent elections in various states are reviewed and summarized. Many other articles—copiously illustrated throughout—throw much light on events past and passing. The character sketch of "Mr. Herbert Spencer" is well worth reading.

The Cosmopolitan. New York. Price tencents. The fiction in this magazine is of a high order, containing Stevenson's last story written before his death, "Ouida," Sarah Grand, Zangwill, and the beginning of James Lane Allen's new Kentucky realistic story, "Butterflies." Probably no stronger array of fiction has ever been presented in any magazine; money could not buy better. The illustrations are a great feature in this magazine, though occasionally one or two are admitted which, in our judgment, might better be left out.

"Ninety-Six." The Toronto Art Students' League has published a very neat little calendar for the year 1896, containing several handsome illustrations, and some verses in season. In the centre of the book is a very fine plate giving the Sundays and holy days of the year. The illustrations are by the Toronto Engraving Company.

Germania. A. W. Spanhoofd, Manchester, New Hampshire, editor. This is a well-arranged monthly periodical for the study of the German language. Each number contains valuable assistance for students of that tongue.