

is based upon ignorance ; intelligent faith is not hereditary ; true belief is personal ; hence the importance of every Christian being able " to give a reason for the hope that is within him " that he feels is buttressed with well-established facts. Much of scepticism results from second-hand doubts that would disappear before honest investigation. Among the much-accumulating evidence to corroborate Old Testament history is the result of exploration in Bible lands. The pickaxe has become a " defender of the faith " in our day. The religion of the Bible is based upon fact, and its history so enters into human affairs that a purely secular history cannot be given without confirming these facts. Such confirmation is being continually furnished by the discoveries of the antiquarian, and the work of these exploration societies is proving more and more interesting and valuable. Our author, who is well known in this field, applies the results of his investigations to all the historical books of the Old Testament as most convincing evidence to the historical correctness of these records. This is a book to put into the hands of a young man who is in the questioning crisis of his life, as well as any others who seek the confirmation of their faith.

*Christ in Myth and Legend.* Curious facts, myths, legends and superstitions concerning Jesus, with an Historical Sketch of the False Christs of all Ages. By JOHN W. WRIGHT. Cincinnati: Cranston & Curtis. New York: Hunt & Eaton. 12mo, cloth. Frontispiece. 130 pages. Postpaid, 50 cents.

The current series of International Bible Lessons is concentrating the attention of Christendom upon the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth. Any author who has light to contribute upon a theme never more interesting or commanding more attention than now is sure of a wide reading. Mr. Wright is a journalist, not unused to putting thoughts in type, and he has given us a most readable book. His object has been " to select from all sources the most characteristic and mysterious of the many scores of legends which all students of mediæval literature know were woven around the true story of the obscure birth, conspicuous life and stormy death of the Saviour of mankind." His accounts of some of the most prominent " sacred " relics, and of the false Messiahs who have arisen from time to time, are full of interest. Teachers and students of the gospels will find it a helpful volume.

*Fifty Social Evenings.* By Mrs. ANNIE E. SMILEY, with an Introduction by Rev. W. I. HAVEN. Cloth, 25 cents. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Cincinnati: Cranston & Curtis.

This is the initial volume of " The League-at-Work Series," in which it is proposed to issue a number of handbooks of information upon the special work of the young people's societies. As its name suggests, this neat booklet gives approved recipes for fifty evenings of social entertainment. The programmes of amusement are fresh and lively, and the directions are given with such admirable clearness that the entertainer will easily make them his own. Although edited especially for young people's societies and leagues in churches, many of these games and devices will afford not less of guidance and help to the house-mother or young person who plays the host in her own home. To committees charged with preparing the bi-weekly entertainments of the Epworth League the book will be of great and constant service.