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first is by Dr. Albert Šanda, and contains in small compass a complete account of what we know of the different branches of the Aramæans, their migrations, their language and civilization, the inscriptions left by them, etc.—The recently discovered Code of Hammurabi has excited widespread interest, and much will yet be heard of it. Winckler has done well to hasten into the field with this translation, although English-speaking students will, by the time this notice is read by them, have in their hands a version of the Code by one who in the department of Babylonian law is a higher authority than Winckler, and whose translation will come to be recognized as the standard one, Mr. C. H. W. Johns of Cambridge.

We have been much interested in the perusal of the first number of a new German monthly periodical, *Die Studierstube*, edited by Lic. Dr. J. Boehmer. Paradoxical as it may sound, the multitude of theological periodicals that are already in existence is the best justification for the launching of this new undertaking, which is meant especially to be the pastor's magazine. It being manifestly impossible for a hard-working pastor to read a tithe of the theological literature of the day, and the existing periodicals being for the most part either too specializing or too partisan to be of general utility, Dr. Boehmer feels considerable confidence that this periodical will appeal to all pastors who have common ground in Mt 18<sup>20</sup>, as well as in 7<sup>13, 14</sup> and Ph 3<sup>12-14</sup>. Its

object will be to keep readers informed of all theological and philosophical currents, to keep them in touch with the science and literature of the day, and, above all, to treat everything from a *practical* point of view. The magazine, which is to appear during the first half of each month, is published by Greiner & Pfeiffer of Stuttgart; it contains 48 pages, and costs 60 pfennigs a number, or M. 1.60 quarterly. The contents of the opening number are very varied and of uniform interest. Besides the editor's full statement of the plan and purpose of the periodical, we have an article on 'Die Studierstube: 1. Eine Arbeitsstube,' followed by an interesting paper on 'Die Griechische Bibel' by Professor A. Deissmann of Heidelberg. Then comes 'Die Bedeutung der Philosophie für die Gegenwart' by Dr. Fr. Mohr. Not the least important article is that of Pastor Mayer of Jüterbog on 'Die modernen Predigtideale und die Aufgabe des evangelischen Predigtamtes.' The other articles are on 'Die Mission in der Studierstube' by Pfarrer Grundemann; 'In der Studierstube': 1. by Pfarrer Förtch; 'Für den Arbeitstisch.' Finally, under the heading 'Zeugnisse von Arbeit und Streitgenossen,' we have a number of notable utterances on important questions culled from the principal theological periodicals.

We shall watch with much interest and with the best wishes the fortunes of this new venture, which appears to us to have really discovered a hitherto unoccupied field.

J. A. SELBIE.

*Maryculter, Aberdeen.*

## Notes on 'The Best Bible Commentaries.'

### OLD TESTAMENT.

IN THE EXPOSITORY TIMES for January and February there appeared articles on the best commentaries on the Old and New Testaments, and the Editor promised at the conclusion of the second article to write some notes on both. In now seeking to fulfil that promise he wishes first of all to recognize the service which Mr. Bond, borough librarian of Woolwich, has rendered to scholarship in procuring the lists and preparing them for the press. His immediate purpose was to assist fellow-librarians in their task of selection,

but he has assisted many others also. The Editor wishes to say further that he believes no better method could have been employed for making sure that the lists should be unbiassed and representative. Whatever criticisms he ventures upon will be read in that light.

GENESIS.—Spurrell's *Notes on the Text of the Book of Genesis* is the best *student's* edition, using the word in its strictest sense. Spurrell depends too much on Dillmann in his exegesis, but his book makes a very good discipline. There is a real

surprise under this heading. Dods' commentary on Genesis in the 'Handbooks for Bible Classes and Private Students' is far more useful than his volume in the 'Expositor's Bible,' and it costs but 2s. The 'Handbooks' series, unequal, but in some instances unexcelled, is never mentioned in the lists, a quite unaccountable omission. Dods' *Genesis* should itself have made the series known even to the severe scholars who have compiled the lists. It is historical and it is spiritual.

NUMBERS.—Buchanan Gray's edition in the 'International Critical' series is almost ready; it will at once supersede the two books named.

SAMUEL.—Kirkpatrick's *Samuel* in the 'Cambridge Bible' is in two volumes at 2s. net each.

KINGS.—Francis Brown of New York has *Kings* in hand for the 'International Critical,' it is nearly ready. And Curtis is well advanced with his *Chronicles*. The historical books are weak in the 'Speaker,' and it proves the value of the lists that 'S.C.' is rarely mentioned in this part. Even Rawlinson's *Esther* scarcely deserves its place.

PSALMS.—The best edition of Delitzsch is Hodder & Stoughton's (3 vols. 22s. 6d.). Cheyne is more useful than Perowne now. He has a new edition nearly ready, but we shall retain the old edition till we see. Wellhausen's edition of the Psalter in the 'Polychrome Bible' should have gained votes enough; it is the richest volume of that scholarly series. Briggs has the Book of Psalms in hand for the 'International Critical': he knows the Psalter well. Notice that Kirkpatrick's *Psalms* may now be had in one volume (6s. net).

PROVERBS.—Add Plumptre in 'S.C.' by all means. Perowne in the 'C.B.' is 2s. net, not 3s. net.

ECCLESIASTES.—Delitzsch is better than Wright. And for the serious student Tyler (Nutt, 6s. net) is better than either. Add an American commentary, Strong's (Hunt & Eaton, 12s.), an exhaustive commentary in every sense of the word.

SONG OF SOLOMON.—Harper's in the 'Cambridge Bible' is now ready (1s. 6d. net), a fine piece of scholarship and good judgment.

ISAIAH.—Cheyne's edition in the 'P.B.' series is more recent and more 'studious' than the one named, but is to be used only for supplementing or correcting. A. B. Davidson had *Isaiah* in the 'International Critical Commentary,' and it was practically ready when he died. It may be expected very soon. Barnes has edited the first part of Isaiah (i.—xxxix.) for Methuen's 'Churchman's Bible' (2s.), a good popular book.

EZEKIEL.—This is the only blank in the lists. Davidson's edition in the 'Cambridge Bible' no doubt serves the student as well as the general reader. But an American commentary by Cobern (Hunt & Eaton) might well have been taken to fill the void. Why not mention Toy in the 'P.B.' series? It deserves more votes than would have secured it a place.

DANIEL.—Pusey is named here and throughout the Minor Prophets. That is a mistake. His method is wholly antiquated, and whatever of spiritual worth he contains is better found in other books. Let him be consulted by all means, but he is neither for students nor for the people. Fuller in the 'Speaker's Commentary' might have been named.

HOSEA.—Orelli (6s.) is the best commentary on the Minor Prophets in one volume.

ZECHARIAH.—Wright's is scarcely a commentary. The student should use Lowe (Macmillan, 10s. 6d.), who works on the Hebrew. On the popular side, Dods is the best book for Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi (*The Postexilian Prophets* in the 'Handbooks' series, 2s.). It is one of Dods' earliest books, but it is the kind of book that scarcely can be superseded.

On the New Testament part there is more to be said.