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Entre Nous.

It has become necessary to tell our correspondents that it is no longer possible for us to answer their questions privately, not even when they are 'regular readers,' and are highly appreciated accordingly. But if the questions are of public interest, we shall try to answer them publicly.

And to begin at once. The best book we know of to be read, before the critical study of the Old Testament begins, is *For Faith and Science*, by the Rev. F. H. Woods, B.D., late Fellow and Theological Lecturer of St. John's College, Oxford. A happier introduction to a difficult subject could scarcely be written, and it is published very cheaply by Messrs. Longmans.

For a knowledge of the principles of the Higher Criticism, which should properly come next, there are many books. It might be well to begin with the Pentateuch; and no better book has been written than Mr. Alfred Holborn's *The Pentateuch in the Light of To-day*. It is published by Messrs. T. & T. Clark at 2s. net.

After that, try a little book which the same publishers have just issued called *To Christ through Criticism*. The author is the Rev. R. W. Seaver, M.A., B.D., Donnellan Lecturer for 1905-6. It tells us where we stand in regard to the great doctrines of Christianity, after criticism has been applied to them. It costs 3s. 6d. net.

These three books, then, might be taken in order. If they are taken in order, the reader will know what criticism means, and he will be able to work out for himself the loss or the gain. But, in any case, let Mr. Woods' little book be read.

The *Monthly Visitor* pays us a visit only once a year. It has conquered all the natural man's distaste for 'tracts.' Is it the tract that has changed or the natural man? The twelve which make up the year's output for 1906 have as much spicy evangelical reading in them as threepence would be likely to buy, however carefully laid out. The *Monthly Visitor* is published by Mr. R. Henderson Smith at 60 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

Professor Morris Jastrow, jun., has republished from the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* a paper in which he answers the question, 'Did

the Babylonian temples have libraries?' The paper is really a very severe handling of Professor Hilprecht, round whom there still rages a controversy which has shaken exploration scholarship to its very foundations. Oriental students everywhere should read the article, first for the extraordinary knowledge it contains of the contents of the Babylonian temples, and next for the controversy.

Professor Menzies is giving himself to the editing of the *Review of Theology and Philosophy* (Edinburgh: Schulze; 1s. 6d.) with splendid energy. The number for December has several reviews that are real contributions to their subject; but it is worth having for its first and last papers alone. The first paper is by Professor Bennett. It is a survey of recent literature on Old Testament Theology. The last is by Mr. Andrew Lang. It is a review of Professor Westermarck's 'Origin and Development of Moral Ideas'—a piece of delicious banter, such as we rarely receive since A. B. Davidson died.

The Great Text Commentary.—The best illustration this month has been sent by the Rev. Henry W. Bell, M.A., Aberdeen, to whom a copy of Briggs' *Psalms*, vol. i., in the 'International Critical Commentary,' has been sent. Illustrations for the Great Text of February must be received by the 4th of January. The text is Lk 7⁴⁷.

The Great Text for March is Lk 9²³⁻³⁶—'And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.' A copy of Adams' *Sermons in Accents* and Reid's *Jesus and Nicodemus*, or of Walker's *Christian Theism and a Spiritual Monism*, will be given for the best illustration. Illustrations must be received by the 1st of February.

The Great Text for April is Lk 9²³⁻³⁶, the Transfiguration. A copy of Reid's *Jesus and Nicodemus* and of Seaver's *To Christ through Criticism*, or of Scott's *Fourth Gospel*, will be given for the best illustration. Illustrations must be received by the 1st of March.

Those who send illustrations should at the same time name the books they wish sent them if successful.

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