

BOOKS

MR. SHELDON'S OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STORIES.

There is no question of the fact, which the author emphasizes in his introduction, that the Old Testament furnishes the finest material extant for bringing home the distinction between good and evil to the young mind. The point of the entire narrative from beginning to end is involved in the lesson: "Be sure your sin will find you out." There is no question of the further fact that the children of to-day stand in as great need as children ever did of having such lessons brought home to them, and that their reading-books of to-day are singularly unconcerned about such lessons.

Few who have not looked specially into the subject have any idea how great a change has taken place in the character of the reading provided for schools. Compare a fourth reader of thirty years ago with a fourth reader of some modern series, and you will find that there is now no such ethical emphasis as formerly. The present selections may be more artistic and more given to nature-study but there has been a clear reaction against teaching morals. I was recently called upon, in the matter of a state adoption of text-books, to examine seventeen sets of modern school readers, and nothing struck me so forcibly as the contrast I have mentioned between the old and the new in this particular respect. The compilers of the old readers evidently had almost, if not quite, foremost in mind the idea of character. The new books are of course far more attractive in very many ways, but there is no such emphasis upon attempting to reach the child's moral nature.

There is no need to enter here upon the causes of this reaction; but it may be said, I think, that one cause was the bald and unattractive way in which so much of the preaching was done. We shall doubtless have another reaction—indeed there are already signs—and, as is always the case, out of the loss we shall have a gain. The preaching will be all the wiser and better.

One of the signs is this book by Mr. Walter L. Sheldon (The Old Testament Bible Stories for the Young, W. M. Welch & Co., Chicago, \$1), which might well be introduced as supplementary reading in every primary school in the land. It seems to me to be a model book of its kind. Its language is simple but not babyish. It brings into all the stories the famous sayings, like "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground", "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground", "The Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart", and all the others, which have for centuries been interwoven into the thought and speech of the world, and are singularly

unfamiliar to children of the present generation. There is enough of these quotations to give the flavor of the Bible style, and they are wrought into the stories, as Mr. Sheldon tells them, with effectiveness.

It is hardly possible for anyone to tell these wonderful stories without being interesting, so there is no special reason for congratulating the author upon this feature; yet it ought to be said that he has succeeded admirably in telling the stories over again in a most interesting way. He says they are told for children of from seven to nine years. He need surely not have put the upper limit; I have tried them with children of twelve, thirteen, and fifteen, and found myself as much interested as they were.

The best feature of the book is the simple way in which the point and the moral are made to appear, and yet without any undue emphasis or savor of cant. Each chapter ends with an excellent hint to teachers with reference to bringing out more fully, if necessary, the ethical value of the stories; but the author has done his work so well that there will be little need of supplement. It would be an improvement if these hints were put at the end of the book, but this is a small matter.

J. H. DILLARD.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

—"An Examination of Society from the Standpoint of Evolution." By Louis Wallis. Columbus, O.: The Argus Press. Price, \$1.75 net. To be reviewed.

PERIODICALS.

In Pearson's for August, North Overton Messenger tells the story of the Panama canal, rather too optimistically with reference to the future, but lucidly as to the past; and Albert Bigelow Paine introduces a novelty in fiction writing for the purpose of telling an interesting short story in illustration of the Negro race question.

The Advocate for Peace, Boston, in its excellent July number, contains Governor Garvin's address at the recent dedication of the Rhode Island monument at Andersonville. "When a nation," says the Governor, "embarks upon the work of slaughter, has staked success, and, it may be, its very existence upon the decision of the battlefield, any laws of war—which in their nature are arbitrary—have but slight binding force upon either combatant. In a business where murder, arson, robbery and fraud are counted as virtues, receiving the highest praise and the greatest reward, it is certainly a fine distinction to say that prisoners should be well treated, and that non-combatants, together with their property, should be protected." In the same number there is an extract from a sermon by Dr. Leighton Parks, of Boston, on the subject "Civilization Not Advanced by Armies." Dr. Parks holds "that we have been deceived by the historians," and he deals with the subject in so able a manner that one might well wish he would write more fully along this line. J. H. D.

The Outlook has done an excellent piece of sociological work in investigating the condition of Negro graduates. Complaint having come from a resident of Montgomery reflecting upon the graduates of Tuskegee, a representative of the paper investigated the present condition of the thirty-eight ex-students of this institution residing in the city of Montgomery. He reports in the issue of July 19 that there is not one of these but is earning his living by his industry, and that nearly all of them are financially independent and laying up money. The report is so favorable that some may be inclined to question its accuracy; but the facts are given with quite full detail, and any one in Montgomery who may care to make the investigation can easily find out whether the individual

TEN BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

This is Your Opportunity

T

10 for 1

THE following selection of ten books from THE HUMBOLDT LIBRARY OF SCIENCE is given so that the readers of this paper may get an idea of the excellence of the Series, which contains the Best works of the leading Scientists at Popular prices. Others charge \$1.00 to \$1.50 for the same books bound in cloth. Ours are Complete and Unabridged editions, neatly bound in strong paper covers, and sell at the small sum of 15 cents each.

<p>Quintessence of Socialism. By Prof. A. SCHAFFLE.</p> <p>Civilization; Its Cause and Cure. By EDWARD CARPENTER.</p> <p>The Coming Slavery; The Sins of Legislators; The Great Political Superstition. By HERBERT SPENCER.</p> <p>The History of Landholding in England. By JOSEPH FISHER, F. R. H. S.</p> <p>The Soul of Man under Socialism. By OSCAR WILDE.</p>	<p>Utilitarianism. By JOHN STUART MILL.</p> <p>Physics and Politics. An application of the principles of Natural Science to Political Society. By WALTER BAGEHOT.</p> <p>Social Disease and Worse Remedies. By THOMAS H. HUXLEY, F. R. S.</p> <p>Profit-Sharing Between Capital and Labor. By SEDLEY TAYLOR, M. A.</p> <p>History of Science and Politics. By FREDERICK POLLOCK.</p>
--	---

PRICE, 15 CENTS EACH

The ten (10) books for \$1.50, which includes postage

TWENTIETH CENTURY PRESS

17 East 16th Street, NEW YORK

Remember the present editions are positively the last to be issued in cheap form. Order early. Full list of 177 numbers on application