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I.

RECENT ETHICAL THEORY.

THE attitude of recent science and of recent speculations in the field of science, with respect to their bearing on ethical theory, has come to be regarded with lively and, to some extent, anxious interest by those conversant with these subjects. The reason for this, which is twofold, may readily be seen.

In the first place, it is felt that now as heretofore a true ethical theory is of primary importance; and this chiefly on two grounds: First, because the right conduct of life is the highest interest alike of society and of the individual, and it is not presumable that an adequate code of ethical maxims can ever spring from a false ethical theory; and second, because a true ethical theory is the finished product, and hence the test and criterion of right thinking in the inferior branches of knowledge. The normal movement of thought is from the physical to the metaphysical, and in metaphysics from the psychological to the ethical. Thus the ethical becomes in one sense the touchstone of all that precedes it. No reasoning can be accounted adequate that will not bear the strain of an ethical application. Whatever makes for wrong doing instead of right doing carries with it its own refutation. The taint of moral defect betrays a previous taint of false logic and false philosophy.

In the next place, it is not to be questioned that much of recent speculation in the field of science wears a hostile look toward all the old accepted tenets of ethical philosophy. The attitude, though less pronounced here than in some other directions, is yet not less certain and decided. The new philosophy, whether true or false, may

VII.

REVIEWS OF RECENT THEOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

I.—EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY.

NOVUM TESTAMENTUM GRÆCE: recensiois TISCHENDORFIANÆ ultimæ textum cum TREGELLESIANO et WESTCOTTIO-HORTIANO contulit, etc. OSCAR DE GEBHARDT. Editio stereotypa. 8vo. pp. xii., 492. Ex officina Bernardi Tauchnitz, Lipsiæ, 1881. [New York: B. Westermann & Co.]

This is an exceedingly welcome edition of the Greek Testament, printing Tischendorf's latest text (that of the *Editio tertia stereotypa*, into which he inserted some corrections of the text of the *Octava Critica Major*), and giving at the bottom of the page the variations from it of Tregelles, and the recent edition of Westcott and Hort. A cursory examination shows it to be not only accurately prepared, but also very accurately printed—and this is high praise when one notes the rather complicated system of signs that has been adopted to denote the various dispositions made of a reading by the two editors compared. Its unhandy size and crowded lines alone mar its usefulness. The spacing is even unevenly done; and not unfrequently at one opening we see a page clear and attractive-looking on one side, and on the other a black, crowded, and crabbed one. But the saving of labor to students through the early possession, in a fair print, of a text exhibiting at each opening the three chief editions of the New Testament, is a boon too great to allow room for any complaints of unattractive printers' work.

A brief preface, explaining the object and method of the work, precedes the text. A series of critical notes, giving the evidence for the readings adopted by each editor in all important cases of variation, follows it. The form of the printed page differs from the *tertia stereotypa*, from which it is taken, only in substituting for the readings of the Elzevirs, Stephens, and Σ , those of Tregelles and Westcott and Hort—relegating the parallel passages (which are largely increased in number) to a separate compartment at the bottom of the page instead of the inner margin—in printing the Old Testament quotations in different type—and in restoring the ordinary forms of Σ E and final S which Tischendorf had discarded. To English-speaking students it is exceedingly gratifying to note from this work the obligations which textual criticism has come under of late to English works—making apparent to us at every step the well-known fact that this science has once more become especially English. Not only are two out of the three texts presented English in origin, but Von Gebhardt is obliged to appeal to an English work for the best account of the MSS. (Scrivener's "Plain Introduction")—to English writers for the best accounts of the Versions (Westcott, Lightfoot, Tregelles)—and to Englishmen for the most valuable recent critical investigations (Ferrers and Abbott). Truly *Redeunt Saturnia regna*.

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