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I.

THE INCARNATION AND OTHER WORLDS.

IT has been objected to the Biblical doctrine of the Incarnation, that it is suggestive of conceit on the part of us men. Large as the earth seems to us, it is small when compared with even our own sun. But there are stars, themselves suns, in comparison with which our sun itself is small; so that astronomy shows how insignificant this little earth of ours is amid the multitudinous items that make up the universe. Whether or no the starry worlds or the planets of our own system are now or ever have been or ever will be inhabited, has long been an open question. The latest word on the subject has been uttered by Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace, who, in his recent discussion of *Man's Place in the Universe*, has urged with great zeal the thesis that our earth is the only one of the millions of globes throughout the universe that has or can become the seat of intelligent life. Both his reasonings and his conclusions have been combated by competent critics, so that the question remains an open one as far as the scientists are concerned.

But granting for the moment Mr. Wallace's contention, our humanity would then be but as a speck of intelligence in the universe; and the objector to the Incarnation asks, "Why should the Son of God ally Himself—and so irrevocably—with such an insignificant part of his wide creation?" The very question, in the judgment of the objector, shows how absurd is the conceit. Possibly it is enough to say, in reply to the objection as thus stated, that, with astronomy in mind, the Bible itself comes to the exactly opposite conclusion. The objection is predicated upon the insig-

die in infancy and like inability) can salvation be had. Surely we must cleanse our language as well as our hearts from the evil leaven of synergism.

It is too ungracious a task to point out faults of mere modes of statement like this in a book in which there are so few of them, and whose whole warp and woof are so good. It is better to point out the value and attractiveness of this fresh and independent study in the theology of the New Testament, and to commend it as a work which can scarcely fail to please and instruct the reader. It is on this note, therefore, that we desire to close, as it was on this note that we began, this notice.

Princeton.

BENJAMIN B. WARFIELD.

DE ZEKERHEID DES GELOOFS. Tweede vermeerddedruk. Door Dr. H. BAVINCK. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1903. 12mo, pp. 105.

CHRISTELIJKE WETENSCHAP. Door Dr. H. BAVINCK. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1904. 8vo, pp. 121.

CHRISTELIJKE WERELDBESCHOUWING. Rede bij de overdracht van het Rectoraat aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam op 20 October, 1904, gehouden door Dr. H. BAVINCK. Kampen: J. H. Bos, 1904. 8vo, pp. 101.

PAEDAGOGISCHE BEGINSELEN. Door Dr. H. BAVINCK. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1904. 8vo, pp. 178.

The four volumes thus brought together illustrate not merely the productivity, but the vigor and the wide range of the thought of Dr. Bavinck, Professor of Dogmatic Theology in the Free University of Amsterdam. In its first edition the little treatise on the Assurance of Faith was somewhat fully noticed in the pages of this REVIEW (January, 1903, pp. 138-148), and Dr. Bavinck makes graceful mention of the notice in the Preface to this enlarged and improved edition. The treatise on Christian Science was called out by debates in the circles of the Free Reformed Churches in Holland concerning the building up of science on a Christian foundation, aroused by certain criticisms centering about the Free University at Amsterdam. The beautiful lecture on the Christian View of the World was Dr. Bavinck's rectoral address in the same university. The extended treatise on Pedagogical Principles has grown out of an address, frequently given, to which the educational problems of Holland and of the Reformed Churches in Holland gave the occasion. It will go without saying to all who know Dr. Bavinck's writings, that all these treatises are wrought out with the extremest care, are formally complete, are thoroughly thought through, and are attractively written. We content ourselves with this merely formal notice of them meanwhile, hoping to return to them, or some of them, for further study hereafter.

Princeton.

B. B. WARFIELD.

THE NATURE OF THE STATE. By Dr. PAUL CARUS. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company; London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd. 1904. 8vo; pp. viii, 56. Price 15 cents (9d.).

This essay was suggested and written on the occasion of the indictment of the Homestead rioters for treason, in 1892. It appeared first in several instalments as editorial articles in *The Open Court*. Its aim is to set forth the true nature of the State as a real "superindividual" embodying and expressing more or less fully "the common will," and also the nature of treason as the attempt to subvert the existence of the State. The positions taken are admirable and are admirably maintained, especially as against the individualistic conception of Hobbes and Rousseau. The fatal defect in Dr. Carus' view of the State, which is essentially