

MISCELLANEOUS.

A STATEMENT FROM RABBI DRUCKER.

In both my articles on the Bible as a text-book I have endeavored to make it plain that I was not criticising either the Old Testament or the New. I merely wished to point out the mistake we make in using the Bible *as it stands* as a text-book in our Sunday-schools. I have shown that some of its stories are not suitable for children. But that the Bible has still a great mission to fulfil and that its educational value is great, I never wished to deny. I simply maintain that we should apply the same scientific method in the religious school as we use in the secular school.

In teaching chemistry or physics, we change text-books to suit new conditions and ideas. A book on chemistry becomes antiquated a few years after it has been introduced. We would consider it wrong to use an old text-book on physics, even of the greatest ancient master. Nevertheless many even of our liberal ministers consider it quite in order to use without comment or revision a book two thousand years old as a religious text-book. It is this inconsistency alone that I wished to point out in my articles.

However, when the Editor taxes me with inconsistency, owing to certain statements in one of these articles which contradict statements in my pamphlet on *The Trial of Jesus*, he applies the same method in my case which I have criticised in connection with our Sunday-schools. If my later assertions in some instances contradict my pamphlet, I feel that I am justified on the same grounds which justify the authors of recent books on chemistry or physics to contradict their own findings of some years earlier.

I may also add here that the pamphlet *The Trial of Jesus* was written on this basis: Supposing that the main facts narrated in the New Testament *are* true; by putting them alongside facts attested by Jewish historians,—namely Josephus and Philo, and Talmudic authorities, we need not conclude that the ones or the others are false. Up to the present time this was the usual deduction of students; the Christians maintained that the Jewish traditions were wrong, while the Jews returned the compliment and claimed that the New Testament accounts were fictitious. The task I set for myself in this pamphlet, therefore, was to point out that after eliminating certain admitted interpolations in the New Testament, the remaining portions to a great extent corroborate Jewish traditions and historical accounts. Hence the pamphlet has no special Jewish or Christian stamp upon it.

A. P. D.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

LEADING AMERICAN ESSAYISTS. By *William Morton Payne, LL. D.* New York: Holt, 1910. Pp. 395. Price \$1.75 net.

This volume belongs to W. P. Trent's series of Biographies of Leading Americans, and at the first glance the reader feels a sense of surprise to note