

end of the book is better thought out, and will suffice for the needs of a popular work.

A characteristic of the book to which we must take serious exception is the frequent omission of references to passages on which Mr. Day bases his deductions. It is not enough to say "suicide was not discountenanced" (p. 172); if the statement is to be fully accredited, all the arguments, with chapter and verse, should be given in full. Moreover, we cannot congratulate Mr. Day on his attempt to provide us with a translation superior to that of the Authorised Version of the words '*āsereth d'bhārīm*, or of I. Sam. ii. 8; the former he renders by "the Ten Words," a most infelicitous choice of the meanings of *dābhār* open to him, while the latter is translated "He taketh the needy from the city-dump" (p. 144); surely the old English word "dunghill" is not too outspoken for a popular book? Again, we must protest against such barbarisms as "pled" for "pleaded" (p. 28); "demonic" for "demoniac" (p. 56); "a few nearby men" (p. 62); and "he was the power back of nature" (p. 88); or such a hybrid as "David ben Jesse" (p. 63). We could wish, too, that Mr. Day's thirst after "local colour" (p. 225) had not led him to describe Samson as "being peculiarly susceptible to female charms" (p. 53); or his labours as "deeds of a purely personal character, in which a man of great strength got a little needed exercise, and at the same time revenged himself upon his personal enemies" (p. 66); or to refer to the rich of Samaria as "wealthy nabobs" (p. 102). The use of modern colloquialisms is unparadonable in all descriptions of Biblical events, challenging, as they do, the classic English of the Authorised Version. What can be said in defence of the following: "It is probable that the star-gazing of the society belles of Jerusalem, a Babylonian importation, was, like similar attempts to acclimate (!) foreign cults, in the nature of a fad, as was chariotteering in the capital in the days of Absalom and Adonijah" (p. 116), or, "It was a long way . . . from the city-dump to a seat among the nobles of the land; but Yahweh knew the way" (p. 151)? Moreover, we are not by any means convinced that the "modern picnic" (p. 45) is the survival of the ancient sacrificial feast, even with the limitation "though seldom of such an exclusive character." It is a great pity that Mr. Day has thought fit to include such colloquialisms as the above in a work on which he has evidently spent time and care. We think, however, that he has not made the most of his opportunities.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Table of British Strata. By Dr. H. Woodward and Mr. H. B. Woodward. (London: Dulau and Co., 1901.)

THIS table will be welcome to students and teachers, for the existing charts are now quite out of date. To compile such a laborious and somewhat thankless task, for it is impossible to please every one; indeed, the authors admit that in two respects, retaining the Permian in the Palaeozoic and placing the Wealden in the Jurassic, they "seek to assert general rather than individual opinion." As to the former, the question seems to be largely one of locality; but in the latter we should have preferred the conservative side, at any rate till better cause is shown for the change; especially since it has led to the virtual suppression of the Neocomian as a system. For the same reason we are glad to see the Tremadoc group

left in the Cambrian system. The latter they allow to be an important geological system, though we should have liked to see the alternative title, "Primordial Silurian," entirely suppressed, for it is commemorative of nothing less than an unwarrantable usurpation. The authors include the Solva Beds of St. Davids with the Menevian, which no doubt is justified by the presence of Paradoxides; but in that case too small a thickness is assigned to the system, for this addition would make it at St. Davids over two thousand feet. Remembering its importance on the Continent, we should have ventured to exalt Rhætic, thin as it may be in Britain, to the dignity of a system, and we think that over much importance is conceded to the subdivisions of the Tertiary series. Are the Thanet Sands or the Oldhaven Beds—not to mention others—more important than the Lower Calcareous Grit or the Stonesfield Slate? Yet we find the former among Formations and the latter in Subdivisions. Does not the statement that the glacial deposits contain only derived fossils beg a disputed question? It would be well to add "slates" to the economic products of Charnwood, for the "honestone," which is mentioned, is very local. A notable feature is the recognition as formation of Torridonian, Uriconian, Dalradian and Lewisian in the Archaean rocks, though some objection may be taken to the third name, on the ground that as originally defined it was a much too heterogeneous assemblage, and we may doubt whether the Moine schists, having regard to their history, form a good type. These criticisms, however, affect only points of detail, and some may even regard them as excellences, while as to the general excellence of the table and its high value to students there cannot be the slightest question.

Differential and Integral Calculus for Beginners. By Edwin Edser, A.R.C.S. Pp. vi + 253. (London: Nelson and Sons, 1901.)

THIS is a book written to supply the wants of students in advanced physics who require some knowledge of the calculus to enable them to read treatises on physical science, but who have not time to devote to a thorough study of higher mathematics. It is the outcome of a series of articles printed some time ago in the pages of the *Practical Teacher*. Most of the text-books which have been written on the subject of the calculus treat it too fully, and deal with examples of too complex and difficult a character to be really suited to the needs of students, who chiefly want the calculus to enable them to understand the theory of comparatively simple experimental problems in mechanics and physics. The present little book is one of several that have been written in recent years with the object of supplying this want. The author has treated the subject in a very simple manner, and does not assume the reader to have more mathematical skill than is involved in a familiar knowledge of elementary algebra and geometry. The opening chapter deals with the elements of coordinate geometry, and explains the nature of the circular and exponential functions sufficiently to render it needless for the ordinary student to refer to other books. This is further ensured by the addition of an appendix dealing with trigonometrical ratios and formulæ. Two chapters are spent on the differentiation of simple and complex functions, two others on maxima and minima and expansions, and two more on simple integrations by direct and special methods. This is followed by a section devoted to applications to problems in geometry, mechanics and, more especially, in physics. The final chapters deal with double and triple integration and simple differential equations.

In general the book is well written, and suitable for beginners. A good feature is the introduction of several numerical problems. The subject in this way is more vividly brought to the student's mind than when the examples, as is ordinarily the case, begin and end in