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doing the work which belongs to it? Is it as influential an agent for the improvement of country life as it should be, and if it is not, how can it recover the position it once held? It does not give us mere theories, opinions, and guesses about these questions, but plain facts, as learned from careful investigation into a selected series of country communities with a population aggregating fifty thousand.

The book reaches the conclusion that the decline of the country church is due to the decline of the community in which the church is located. From this, it deduces that the up-building and improvement of country life in general is the main hope for the regeneration of country churches. This position is one that would hardly have been taken by a religious investigator ten or fifteen years ago, because it is opposed to that individualistic emphasis which, until recently, was overwhelming in the religious field. A few years ago, rural church decline would have been charged up to the "sins of the individual." But now the decline of the country church is frankly recognized as a community movement, bound up with the whole problem of contemporary society. This volume ought to be in the hands of all who are trying to interpret and cope with the difficulties of the country church.

A Critical Introduction to the Old Testament.

By George Buchanan Gray. New York: Scribner, 1913. Pp. xi+253. 75 cents.

By his long training and through his large experience as a writer on Old Testament themes, Professor Gray is peculiarly qualified for the task of preparing a handbook of this kind. The book may be unhesitatingly recommended for the use of ministers, theological students, and laymen who wish to know the conclusions of reverent modern scholarship in regard to the older portion of our Bible. It has something of importance and clarity to say about most of the questions pertaining to Old Testament introduction. While the professional teacher will find nothing new here, the volume will be a fresh and welcome help in the work of guiding students through this field of study.

Mind and Health, with an Examination of Some Systems of Divine Healing.

By Edward C. Weaver. New York: Macmillan, 1913. Pp. xv+500. \$2.00.

This is an eminently sane book. It is sane because it is genuinely scientific. It is scientific because it takes fully and sympathetically into account all the facts of all the sides that can possibly enter into the discussion. It passed muster as a Doctor's thesis at Clark University, and the introduction is by President Hall. The different religious systems that are examined will

respect the author, because they will recognize that he has made an effort to be fair—a recognition that far too often is not deserved.

That anyone would agree with everything in any book is not to be expected. We wish that this book might be extensively read by ministers—and so that it might displace the worthless trash that is so widely distributed and read.

Mishnah. A Digest of the Basic Principle of the Early Jewish Jurisprudence. Baba Meziah Translated and Annotated.

By H. E. Goldin. New York: Putnam, 1913. Pp. viii+205. \$1.50.

Baba Meziah is one of the treatises of the Mishnah. The treatise deals with "the acquisition and transfer of title to personal property." Mr. Goldin has translated and commented upon the entire treatise. The work is well done and the book will prove very serviceable to students of Jewish law and custom. As the first of a series of volumes of the same sort upon the Mishnah, it assures its successors of a cordial welcome.

Another characteristic pamphlet comes to us from the pen of Dr. Frank Crane, entitled *God and Democracy* (Forbes & Co., 50 cents). Its main point is its emphasis upon the conception of God as that of the Universal Servant and not that of the Universal Ruler. The church, says Dr. Crane, is losing its hold on modern life in proportion as it clings to the old Czar-idea of God, which does not appeal to the higher type of modern conviction; and he seeks to show how the idea of democracy is altering the idea of God. The little book is a pungent, arresting statement, which ought to do good service.

There is no small amount of good sense and effective style in the series of little addresses given by A. H. Strong, President Emeritus of the Rochester Theological Seminary. The addresses are being made up from stenographic reports, made quite without his knowledge, of talks which he gave at the daily noon prayer meeting of the seminary. In the nature of the case they are not discussions, but they are brief exposures of a rich experience and are eminently sane, catholic, and mature.

The title of the book, *One Hundred Chapel Talks to Theological Students*, should not prevent any active mind from reading it. (Griffith & Rowland Press, \$1.00).

The Macmillan Company have issued a fifty-cent edition of Mathews' *The Church and the Changing Order*, as an addition to the "Macmillan Standard Library."