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## BOOK REVIEWS

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### A NEW HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS<sup>1</sup>

Any study of the gospels, no matter how superficial, any inquiry into the words or teaching of Jesus, whatever its object, requires a comparison of parallel passages in the synoptic gospels. This comparison is very significant when made in the English; it is much more instructive when made in Greek. A harmony of these gospels presenting similar passages on the same page is therefore almost the first tool a student should acquire. After providing such tools in English, professors of the University of Chicago are again to be thanked for publishing a similar one in the original tongue. The text used is that of Westcott and Hort, which, though it has generally received the preference of English and American scholars in the forty years since its publication, apparently has not before been issued in the form of a harmony. Here it has been carefully reproduced *literatim*, arranged conveniently for parallel study, and provided with an outline, index, and other suitable equipment. The editors have done well to substitute quotation marks for the unfamiliar capitals used by the former editors to indicate quotations from the Old Testament. They might have further improved on their predecessors if they had supplied a textual apparatus for the variant readings which are noticed marginally by Hort, as they have done for the variants, many of them much less important, which they have added in another margin of their own. In this respect (as well as in the matter of expense) the latest edition of Huck's *Synopse* has still an advantage over this product of American home industry.

There is not much opportunity for novel or individual theory in preparing a harmony of the gospels, and the editors have wisely refrained from obtruding into the Greek text any of the special theories of the "Chicago School" of synoptic criticism, contenting themselves with a brief allusion in the Preface. There are sometimes opportunities also for differences of opinion in delimiting each individual pericope. In this matter they seem to have followed generally Westcott and Hort. As has been said,

<sup>1</sup> *A Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels in Greek.* Ernest D. Burton and Edgar J. Goodspeed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1920. xxx+186 pages. \$3.00 net.

a harmony is a tool, and the making of a tool gives little scope for creative work. None the less, the tool is indispensable and these accurate craftsmen deserve much credit for their pains.

HENRY J. CADBURY

ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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### A NEW COMMENTARY ON REVELATION<sup>1</sup>

The long-awaited commentary on Revelation in the "International Critical" series has at last appeared in two substantial volumes.<sup>1</sup> Approximately the first two hundred pages are devoted to topics usually treated as introductory. The problem of authorship is the first to claim attention. The writer of the Apocalypse is thought to have been a Jewish Christian of Galilee who late in life emigrated to Asia Minor and settled in Ephesus. He is not to be confused with John the Elder, who is assumed to have been the author of the Fourth Gospel and of the Johanne Epistles, nor is he to be identified with the Apostle John, who is thought to have suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Jews in Palestine some time before 70 A.D. Thus the Apocalypse was composed by a third John, an otherwise unknown Christian prophet, about the year 95 A.D. Questions regarding sources, interpolations, redactions, diction, and text are duly considered. Next follows the commentary proper, embracing I, 1—II, 226. In content it is mainly a phrase-by-phrase study of John's diction, made with a view to discovering the literary origins and meaning of the document. The third section of the work presents a reconstructed Greek text with an elaborate *apparatus criticus*. The fourth and last section contains a new English translation accompanied by an analytical outline of contents and numerous interpretative notes.

Users of this monumental work will do well to follow the author's advice and first read the English translation, then the introduction, and lastly the detailed commentary. Possibly such procedure will reduce to a minimum the inconvenience and confusion that inevitably result from the author's method of treating his subject. His arrangement of materials is such as to involve considerable repetition, for the same topic comes up for discussion on various occasions in different contexts. To add to the reader's embarrassment, he sometimes finds that in the meantime the author has undergone a radical change of opinion. For example, one who is curious to ascertain the author's views on the much-discussed

<sup>1</sup> *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Revelation of St. John*. R. H. Charles. 2 vols. New York: Scribner, 1920. cxcii+373, and viii+497 pages. \$9.00.