Work and Workers.

A Christmas edition of Dr. John Watson's Life of the Master is announced by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, London. This life was published two years ago in this country in McClure's Magazine, and commended itself to many readers as an exceptionally interesting and scholarly general treatment of Jesus' life and work. The Christmas volume is an édition de luxe; it is illustrated with sixteen full-page paintings in colors, made by C. K. Linson, who went to Palestine for the purpose of preparing these pictures.

We record with sorrow the death of Rev. George T. Purves, D.D., pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York city, on October 2. His health had been poor during the summer, but he had expected to resume his work with the church on October 6. His death came as a result of heart failure, superinduced by exhaustive work in his pastorate. Two years ago he took up this work at New York, having been for the previous seven years the professor of New Testament literature and exegesis in Princeton Theological Seminary. He was forty-nine years of age, having been born in Philadelphia on September 27, 1852. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1872, and from Princeton Seminary in 1876. From that time he was pastor in Baltimore for two years, and in Pittsburg for six years, whence he went to the Princeton chair. As one effort of his labors in the New Testament he published a year ago a volume upon the History of the Apostolic Age, and he had previously published a work upon The Testimony of Justin Martyr to Early Christianity. His death will be felt as a distinct loss, not only to the Presbyterian church, but also to American scholarship.

Good effects in many directions have followed the recent Pan-American Bible-Study Congress which was held at Buffalo last July. The various systems of biblical and religious instruction which are now in use in the United States were reported by representatives from the several bodies, and were carefully compared with one another. There has never been so capable and thorough a discussion of the competing systems for Sunday-school work. It was evident that all were engaged in the same great work, and inspired by the same desire
to increase the knowledge and practice of Christianity. However many methods may be pursued, each one accomplishes unmeasured good in the great cause of the kingdom. The congress did not undertake to pronounce upon the relative excellencies or value of the several systems set before it, but the spread of information and the cultivation of kindred feeling among those engaged in the different lines of Sunday-school work have unquestionably had a beneficent influence upon the whole field. It is obvious to any careful observer that the United States is making rapid progress toward an improved Sunday school, which will be qualified to perform its full mission for the modern church and society.


The University of Chicago Press, in conjunction with The Macmillan Co., announces for publication during the coming year the first of several series of Ancient Records, under the general editorship of President William R. Harper. This first series will be Ancient Records of
Babylonia and Assyria, and will contain all the historical inscriptions, arranged chronologically, published up to this time, as well as the most important religious texts and selections from the epistolary and contract literature. It will be prepared by Professor Robert Francis Harper, and will consist of six volumes. Vols. I, II, and III will contain the translations of the cuneiform texts, together with brief introductions to the various inscriptions, the necessary historical and geographical notes, explanatory comments on difficult points, and maps. Vols. IIA, II A, and IIIA will contain the transliterations with textual, critical, and philological notes, the critical apparatus for Vols. I–III. The separation of translations and transliterations will make it possible for the clergyman, historian, and layman to avail themselves of the translations at a moderate expense, while the volumes of transliteration will be essential to the Semitic student.

The second series will contain five volumes of Ancient Records of Egypt, and will be prepared by Dr. James Henry Breasted. Dr. Breasted, while on leave of absence from the University of Chicago during the past two years, has been engaged under appointment by the four royal academies of Germany in copying, for use in the preparation of the Egyptian dictionary now being compiled by these academies, all the Egyptian inscriptions stored in the great museums of Europe. These and many others will be translated in this series, many of them being here published for the first time. The general scope and plan of this series will be the same as that of the preceding one, with such modification in details as the nature of the Egyptian language requires. Its aim will be to put the whole realm of Egyptian life and thought within the reach of students, typical selections from every class of literature being made for this purpose.

The third series, Ancient Records of Palestine, will be prepared by the general editor, President Harper.

This undertaking was first planned in 1892, and again in 1899, but the pressure of other duties has delayed its execution. It is now proposed to push the work rapidly, and the first volumes may be expected within a few months.