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Hebrew and English Responses and Hymns for Use in the Synagogue.

Collected by Rev. Dr. STRAUSS. (Bradford : 1891.)

THIS volume contains thirty-six musical settings, in excellent type, to various congregational phrases and hymns. Many of them are well-known as being in use in most of the synagogues in England and on the Continent. A few of them are old melodies, such as the Yigdal belonging to the Sephardic Jews ; others are taken from recent compilations. The novel feature of this collection is, that it includes English verses under such headings as "The Opening Year," "Yom Kippur," "The Way to Peace," "The Law of God," "Charity," "Universal Love," "Springtide," etc. This last-named is set to a well-known tune from the *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Other musical selections from that splendid collection are also introduced. The conception of this publication is essentially good, as congregational singing has not hitherto been cultivated in reformed synagogues. It may be regretted that the authorship of the particular verses which are not part of the Hebrew liturgy is concealed, and it is a disadvantage that the composers' names have not been appended to the musical renderings. A more careful revision of the musical arrangements would have been satisfactory. Crotchets are sometimes confused with quavers. This, however, may be a misprint. The perfect model for hymn-books (we do not refer to the literary, but only to the musical department) is the *Hymns Ancient and Modern* ; and it would be well if more slender productions were constructed in a like fashion. This is distinctly a fresh step in a right direction, so far as concerns the popularising of congregational singing.

O. J. SIMON.

Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages.

By the late Dr. W. WRIGHT. (Cambridge, 1890.)

STUDENTS of the Semitic languages may congratulate themselves upon the assistance which will be given to them in their studies by the publication of the lectures of the late Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge ; and although many of the results were well known to German students, most of them were scattered in articles published in the various learned journals, and were not so easily accessible as they will be now. I think that it may be safely said that for the study of Semitic philology the work will be indispensable.

One of the most interesting inquiries in ethnology is as to the