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CUS417/35.61
BOOKS, 1913-5.

There was published from the Bible League Office in 1913 a volume entitled "The Bible and the Origin of Life" by the Rev. A. C. Dixon and Mr. W. H. Seagram. A review of this appeared in the Times of June ~~16~~ 1913, which led to the following note written

Saturday
14th

Jean Astruc.

*the same evening, and it appeared in
the Times of Monday (?? June 16)*

To the Editor of the Times.

~~Oxford,~~
~~June 16, 1913.~~

Sir,

In his address on The Bible and the Origin of Life reported in the Times of to-day, the Rev. A. C. Dixon quotes from Dr. Henry Green to the effect that Jean Astruc the father of modern Biblical criticism, was a man "of considerable learning but of profligate life". For the latter part of this statement there is, I believe, no justification. Of marked distinction in his generation Astruc is still honourably remembered in his profession by hwo historical works of great merit; and from the accounts at my disposal he appears to have had an aggressive type of goodness in a University professor. Issued anonymously and with much modesty and good feeling the significance of the famous Conjectures sur les Mémoires Originaux etc. is, as Baentsch says, in a recent note, assured for all time; and his book has made the year 1753 "a milestone in the history of the science of the Old Testament".

Yours &c.

WILLIAM OSLER.

Oxford,
June 14th (1913).

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*Could not find this
in "Times"
J.H.S.*