Oxford, June 14th (1913).

CUS417/35.62

At the same time he must have written immediately to others on the subject as the following replies are preserved:

From Professor Sir Alexander Simpson.to W.O. 52, QueenStreet, Edinburgh.

June 21, 1913.

Dear Sir William,

Your letter to Rev. Dr. Dixon about JeanAstruc reached him just as he was setting out for America. He asked his Assistant Minister to forward me the letter as he had sent me quite recently a copy of the book from which he quoted the disparaging reference to Astruc.

BOOKS, 1913-5.

In bound reprint - "JeanAstruc and his Conjectures" by Sir Alexader Simpson. (Edinb. Med. Jr., June 1915).

Your letter to Mer. Dr. Dimon about JeanAstrue reached him just as he was setting out for America. He caked his Assistant Minister to forward me the letter as he had gont me quite recent;

June St. 1915.

E. Queomatreet Edinburgh.

From Professor Mir Alexander Gimpson.to W.O.

At the suns time he must have written immediately to others on the subject as the following replice are preserved:..

June lath (1913).

WILLIAM OSLIM.

Iours do.

In his address on The Lible and the Origin of Life respected in the Times of to-day, the May. A. C. Dixon quotes from Dr. Henry Green to the effect that dean Astruction from Dr. Henry Green to the effect that dean Astruction from Pr. Henry Green to the effect that dean Astruction from Dr. Henry Green to the father of modern Similar and of profligate life. For the letter part of this statement there is, I believe, no justification. Of marked distinction in his generation Astruction at still noncurably remembered in his protein feation by has bistorical works of great merit; and from the accounts at my disposal he appears to have had an aggreeative type of geodeses in a University professor. I saued ancrymously and with much modesty and good feeling the eignificance of the famous Conference aur less bemoires Originally etc. is, as featured asys, in a recent meta, resurces for all time; and his book has made the year note, resurced.

Anne de' delo.

To the Miltar of the Times.

in Automo. The dress hereing care Mathema is

There was published from the Bible Latgue Office in 1915 a volume entitled "The Bible and the Origin of Life" by the Rev. A. C. Binon and Mr. W. M. Seegram. A review of this appeared in the Times of June 167 1915, which led to the fellowing note.

ROOME' TAIR-P'

## Jean Astruc (continued).

It is a work on "The Higher Criticism of the Pentateuch" by Wm. Henry Green, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Oriental and Old Testament Literature inPrinceton Theological Seminary. Scribner's 1910. At p. 62 he says that the first attempt to decompose "the book into the prior documents supposed to have been imbedded in it was made in 1753 by Astruc, a French physician of considerable learning but of profligate life". In a note he says "For an account of the life and character of the author see the article JeanAstruc, by Dr. Howard Osgood, in The Presbyterian and Reformed Review, for January 1892".

wrote

Since my student days I had a kind of respect for the man who, treat a treatise on midwifery which is still of historical interest - tho' he had never attended a case of labour, and to which he appends a letter to back a friend who had been bamboozled by a sceptic who wanted to know how Adam knew how to deal with Cain's umbilical cord. Astruc gives various explanations, but is best satisfied himself with the idea that God came and gave Adam a lesson - was, in short, the first Professor of Midwifery!

But Osgood's article is staggering. He goes to his work clearly enough with a prejudice, alleging that Astruc tried to destroy the authenticity of the Bible because he had become a wicked old man with some stings of conscience that he owed to his Huguenot descent. He had searched into the histories of the Court scandals of a specially scandalous court and leavesyou the impression that his authorities justify him in depicting his victim as a contemptible old sinner who had broken every law of the decalogue.

I had a fancy to write an article for my friend Sir Wm.
Robertson Nicoll calling attention of theologians to him as a defender of the faith in the appendix I refer to. But I don't write easily, and when I read Osgood's paper a few years ago I shrank the more from the task. His remarkable ability is freely admitted. If you can clear up his character I will be glad.

In any case I like to see you stand up on his behalf.

Believe me, with best regards,

Yours very faithfully,

A. R: SIMPSON.