

Patrick, Graham A.: **F.J.A. Hort, Eminent Victorian**. Sheffield, U.K.: The Almond Press 1988. 127 pp., hardback £21.50/\$36.50, ISBN 1-85075-098-X; paperback £8.95/\$14.95.

If the average student of the New Testament were asked what he knew of Hort, he might answer that he was the junior partner in the firm of Westcott and Hort, producers of a Greek New Testament which is now superceded; that this edition formed the basis of the excessively concordant (English) Revised Version; and perhaps that he left behind a pile of unfinished writings which were still being published seventeen years after his death.

Of these statements, only the last is correct; and this fact alone is sufficient indication that a reassessment of Hort, acclaimed in 1897 by William Sanday as the greatest English theologian of the nineteenth century, is in order. As a textual critic, he was by no means Westcott's junior partner. His textual achievement is by no means superceded: although time has not stood still, and we no longer speak of a "Neutral Text", we still await the paradigm shift which will set New Testament textual studies moving in a radically new direction. Nor did the Revised Version by any means adopt all the Westcott and Hort readings; it would have been better textually if it had.

All these and many other misconceptions this biography corrects in a sympathetic spirit which is still far from hagiography. Patrick draws a picture of a scholar with an immense range of interest and knowledge; a creative thinker who played a central and courageous role in most of the major theological debates of his time, yet whose learning was earthed in long service as a parish priest.

Minor complaints, in declining order of importance, are the paucity of information about Hort's wife and children, who included his first biographer; the excessive price of the hardback edition; and a number of mis-spellings of proper names, beginning sadly with "Brooke Fosse Westcott" on p. 2. These defects do not seriously detract from a timely and attractive rehabilitation of one who was indeed, without Lytton Strachey's irony, an eminent Victorian.

P.E.

Morris, Leon: **The Epistle to the Romans**. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1988. 578 pp., \$27.95. ISBN 0-802803636-4.

It would have been easier to write a more positive review of this commentary if it had appeared some ten or fifteen years ago. Morris retired as principal of Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia, in 1979,