

coming this thoughtful work. Though confessedly written 'by a plain man for plain men,' it embodies and endorses many of the common objections to the faith of many Christians (e.g., the literal accuracy of the Bible, the Virgin birth of Jesus Christ), and yet embraces a Christian faith at once honest, sane, and manly. The attitude assumed by Mr. Binstead is very similar to that assumed by the great majority of thinking men to-day; that is to say, while differing on a great number of points from the orthodox belief, he still retains his love for and loyalty to the Church of Christ. It seems to us the book will do much good; it certainly deserves to be widely read and studied. We like its simplicity, its straightforwardness, its catholicity of spirit; above all, we like the modest and unassuming way in

which the author advances his opinions."

Messrs. George Newnes, Ltd., have recently published a work on the great painter Raphael by Edgecombe Staley:

"The most important part of this volume is made up of sixty-five full-page illustrations reproducing the more important works of the great painter. These are well done in black and white, some of them being really excellent; indeed, it is possible to form some adequate idea of the special nature of Raphael's genius by studying these careful reproductions of photographs. Mr. Staley's introductory study of the life and work of Raphael is thoroughly competent, and a list of the artist's chief works will prove useful for purposes of reference."

## Dr. BARRACLOUGH'S SECOND ANNUAL

# ⌘ Natural Science Competition. ⌘

**D**R. H. BARRACLOUGH, of Wellington, offers through this Magazine a Prize of **Five Guineas** for the best Essay on any branch of Natural Science or special line of investigation connected therewith. The term Natural Science is used in its modern restricted sense as consisting of the Sciences of Geology, Zoology, and Botany.

This Competition is open to anyone residing in New Zealand who does not hold a scientific appointment. Dr. Barraclough wishes to call the attention of farmers who are naturalists or interested in agricultural science to the Competition. Essays should be on subjects of practical value. They must be original, that is, the observations must have been made by the Competitors themselves, and not be mere re-statements of other men's work.

Although not an absolute condition, it would be desirable, where possible, that illustrative photos, or sketches should be sent with the essays.

Contributions for this Competition must be forwarded, addressed Editor N.Z. Illustrated Magazine, Box 540, Auckland, not later than Jan. 31st, 1905.

The *nom de plume* of writer must appear under the title of the article, and the writer's name, *nom de plume*, and address must be enclosed in a separate envelope.

In no case will MSS. be returned unless stamps are sent for the purpose.

The Prize Winning Essay will be published in the "N.Z. Illustrated Magazine."

Selections from the unsuccessful essays will also be published, and paid for in the usual way.