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## Short Notices.

*Laying Foundations ; Brief Essays for the People.* By the Rev. G. C. WILLIAMSON. London : J. Kensit.

THE author is an association Secretary of the C.M.S., and his little book is introduced by a preface from the pen of Canon McCormick. The essays are intended as simple and plain discussions on topics of ecclesiastical interest, and are especially designed for the middle classes. They should eminently fulfil the author's intention, and are splendidly robust and practical. Written from a strong Protestant standpoint, they yet convey the truth as the writer conceives it, in a friendly and conciliatory tone.

*The Gospel of Common-sense.* By STEPHEN CLAYE. London : Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co.

There is no doubt that these little essays are written from the heart by a man of deep religious instinct. But, to quote his own words, he "ranks among those who no longer consider it an honour to be classed as a Christian." With whatever interest, therefore, his theories may be read, it is only natural that contradictions spring to the mind at almost every line. Neither do we think the author's case is always stated so temperately as to command attention. Is this fair to say of the great Jewish nation : "For dirt, selfishness, sensuality, prevarication, and the capacity for corruption, the Jew has few equals" ? (p. 47). Mr. Claye would be welcomed on the staff of *La Patrie*.

*Christ's Daily Orders.* By Rev. A. E. HUMPHREYS, M.A. London : The Church Newspaper Co.

These are brief meditations selected from each day's New Testament evening lesson, and intended for private devotions or family prayers.

*Holy Communion, with Meditations and Prayers.* By the Bishop of Hull. London : S.P.C.K.

Dr. Blunt follows the familiar plan of interspersing the different parts of the Communion Service with prayers and meditations. The little volume is certainly a worthy companion to the many excellent manuals that are now in use. We fancy, however, that it may prove rather diffuse and protracted for use in church. As a means of study at home it is quite praiseworthy.

*Convalescence : A Book for Convalescents.* By the Rev. S. C. LOWRY. London : Skeffington and Sons.

This attractive little book is designed for the days of returning health. The author's experience in a well-known health resort has eminently qualified him for such an undertaking. Clear type, cheerful tone, and spiritual treatment, combine to make a charming and useful volume that we are sure will be welcomed by many.

*Methods of Soul-Culture.* By the Rev. J. A. CLAPPERTON, M.A. London : Religious Tract Society.

A very searching and comprehensive help towards analysis of character, based chiefly upon the Socratic method of asking questions, and enriched by many apposite quotations and anecdotes. The author's own reflections are singularly lucid and helpful. The difficulty lies in getting thoughtless people to read such books ; no one could peruse this one carefully and earnestly without being the better for it.

*Here and Hereafter.* By the Rev. G. W. BUTLER, M.A. London : S. W. Partridge and Co.

A solemn and deeply spiritual meditation upon the first part of the narrative of the Rich Man and Lazarus. To the mind of the writer heaven and hell are such realities that his earnestness and conviction infuse every word of his exposition.

*The Son of Man.* By the Rev. Prebendary HARRY JONES. London : S.P.C.K.

Sober and forceful teaching on some of the aspects of Christ's human character which are occasionally overlooked, *e.g.*, His thrift, homeliness, newness. Prebendary Harry Jones insists well upon the necessity for modern Christianity to conform to the character of the Master. "Endurance, not indulgence, is the leading note of Christianity" (p. 53).



## The Month.

THE great event of the month has been the C.M.S. centenary celebration. There is hardly a paper of importance, religious or secular, that has not made reference to this event—which, it may without exaggeration be said, marks an epoch in Church History. The centenary proceedings began on Sunday, April 9, when special sermons were preached in a large number of London churches. Monday, the 10th, in the official programme described as "a day for prayer and thanksgiving," began with a service at St. Bride's, and closed with a remarkable service in St. Paul's Cathedral, where an immense congregation assembled to hear the Primate. The stewards at that service were supplied by the C.M.S. Younger Clergy Union. A considerable number of Bishops were present.

The meetings proper began on Tuesday, a day set apart for reviewing C.M.S. missions in general. The gathering at Exeter Hall was presided over by Lord Kinnaird, in the unavoidable absence (through illness) of the great Bishop of Durham, Dr. Westcott. The afternoon meeting, presided over by Dr. Eden, Bishop of Wakefield, was even more crowded than the morning one. At the evening meeting, when the lectures were illustrated by dissolving views, there was an immense gathering; the Bishop of Winchester took the chair.

"Centenary day" was actually celebrated on Wednesday, at 11 a.m., in Exeter Hall, with the President of the C.M.S., Sir John Kennaway, in the chair. Congratulatory letters and telegrams were read from (among others) Lord Salisbury, the Lord Chancellor, Prince Oscar of Sweden, and Lord Roberts of Kandahar. The Chairman was supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Northbrook, Sir Richard Temple, and several of the Bishops.

On April 12, vast numbers of people poured into Queen's Hall (open to the general public), and a huge concourse of men made their way to Exeter Hall, the overflow betaking themselves to Langham Place, where the venerable Bishop of Liverpool occupied the chair. Great enthusiasm was displayed everywhere; and it is with great satisfaction that we learn that Colonel Williams, M.P., Treasurer of the C.M.S., was able to announce, at the close of the meeting in Queen's Hall, that the centenary contributions had then amounted to £55,000.

Amid various troubles, political and religious, crises in the Church at home, ominous mutterings among the nations abroad, and much uneasiness as well as ill-feeling in too many directions, it is satisfactory to be able