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Reviews.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

National Education: Essays Towards a Constructive Policy. Edited by LAURIE MAGNUS. London: J. Murray.

CHURCHMEN who are considering with open minds the education problem, more especially in regard to secondary education, will find this volume of essays worth their attention. There is a strong plea for proper professional training and the registration of secondary teachers. The inspection of secondary schools is supported in an interesting essay by Sir Joshua Fitch. Commercial, industrial, and agricultural education will also be found treated with care. The question of the Church schools is handled by Prebendary Bernard Reynolds, whose wide experience gives him ample authority to speak. He explains the changes which he regards as necessary before we can reach peace in regard to this thorny subject:

"1. The alteration of the School Board system. There is not the least reason why members of School Boards should resent such a step, as those of them who have done really good work would certainly be placed upon the new bodies.

"2. The prevention of sacred subjects being brought into contempt for electioneering purposes.

"3. The control of elementary and secondary education by smaller bodies than at present, and more representative of the locality, such bodies being appointed by the County or Borough Councils, with representatives appointed by the Board of Education, by the religious bodies concerned, and by the teachers themselves, and by bodies who concern themselves with some special branch of education.

"4. The control of the religious teaching by the Church or denomination to which the children belong."

This volume should do good service just now.

The Vicar and his Friends. Reported by CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D., LL.D. London: Longmans and Co.

Dr. Geikie opens his work with a very charming picture of a Godly and most lovable country parson. He was also a man of learning, and thoughtful neighbours often gathered at his vicarage to talk of things near their hearts, *et quibusdam aliis*. Some of these conversations are here reported for us. It must be owned that their range is wide enough for them actually to have taken place, and that the occasional presence of rather foolish things also helps to give them a natural air. On the other hand, unless the rural gathering was one of a very exceptional character, the speeches are mainly too long and too literary in their character. Still, there they are, and between them they discuss in an interesting and suggestive way things as different as points of theology, the Hundred Best Books, and the incomes of the clergy. No intelligent Churchman should find the book dull.

Noble Women of Our Times. By F. D. How. London: Isbister and Co.

Mr. How has turned from Bishops to ladies, but without losing his habit of writing in an interesting way. His subjects are not the conventional selection. They include Mrs. Daniell, the soldiers' friend, Mrs.

Wightman, of Shrewsbury, Mrs. Sydney Lear, Mrs. Nassau Senior, Miss Agnes Jones, and other noble women whose examples cannot fail to help those who read this volume.

The Fireside. Conducted by the Rev. C. BULLOCK. *Hand and Heart.* Edited by H. SOMERSET BULLOCK. London: Home Words Office.

The volumes of these familiar magazines show that they are being kept well up to their known reputations. The *Fireside* is an excellent magazine for the home, whilst *Hand and Heart* should do good service as a magazine for parish use. Both are well illustrated and attractively got up.

The Novels of George Meredith. Pocket Edition. Westminster: A. Constable and Co.

We have received four volumes of this edition: "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel," "Beauchamp's Career," "The Egoist," and "Diana of the Crossways." The size is convenient, the type clear, the binding tasteful; in fine, when complete we should regard this as in every way an admirable edition of its kind.

The Story of some English Shires. By the late MANDELL CREIGHTON, D.D. London: R.T.S.

This is a new edition at 6s. of the book originally issued in a costly form. Dr. Creighton's work always had the power of interesting the reader, and we do not doubt but that these chapters on some of the English counties will, in this more popular form, reach a new and much wider circle.

Widow Wiley, and Some Other Folk. By "BROWN LINNET." London: Seeley and Co.

A very charming series of sketches of rural character and life will be found in this volume. "Brown Linnet" writes with genuine skill, and the book deserves success.

The Universal Obligation of Tithes. By A BARRISTER. London: Elliot Stock.

This book is a strong plea for the principle of devoting a tithe as a direct offering to God.

CHIEFLY HOMILETICAL.

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. The Book of Psalms. Books IV. and V., Psalms XC.-CL. By A. F. KIRKPATRICK, D.D. Cambridge: At the University Press.

Professor Kirkpatrick has now brought to an end his valuable and most convenient commentary. This volume is entirely worthy of his reputation as a sound and sober Old Testament scholar. It is, like its predecessors, complete in itself, so that the student who wishes to study any division of the Psalter will find the introductory matter in each volume. The commentary is, again, most useful, illuminating just those points upon which assistance is needed. There are details upon which it is permissible to differ even from Professor Kirkpatrick, but the work will commend itself to all save those whose sympathies are with a more daring and imaginative school of criticism.

The Church Epistles: Romans to 2nd Thessalonians. By E. W. BULLINGER, D.D. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode.

Dr. Bullinger has reprinted his articles from *Things to Come*. The book is not primarily meant for the scholar so much as for the general reader. It will probably be agreed that some of the things upon which Dr. Bullinger insists are purely arbitrary; but his work may help some readers to a more careful study of the Epistles, especially in their relation to each other.

The Titles of Jehovah: A Course of Sermons. By the Rev. H. W. WEBB-PFLOE. London: James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.

These sermons were preached without any thought of their appearance in book form, and on that account lack something of the carefulness of form which they might otherwise have had. But they are instinct with life, marked with the deepest reverence for Holy Scripture, practical in their application, and persuasive in their appeal. They deserve a wide circulation.

Apostolic Optimism and other Sermons. By J. H. JOWETT, M.A. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

Mr. Jowett succeeded Dr. Dale. But he is not another Dr. Dale. His book hardly reaches the first rank in Nonconformist homiletics. He has vigour; but there is too little of Holy Scripture, and rather too much of rhetoric.

The Company of Heaven: Daily Links with the Household of God. London: Longmans and Co.

This is a book for devotional use, giving for every day in the year a text of Holy Scripture, together with short extracts in prose or verse from well-known authors. It should help to the realization of some aspects of the Communion of Saints.

Lessons from the Parables, for Home and School Use. By Mrs. W. J. TAIT. With a Preface by the Dean of ROCHESTER. London: Elliot Stock.

These Lessons show freshness and vigour. They should be found very suggestive by those who have to give Scripture lessons to young people. We say this, of course, without endorsing all that is laid down by the author.

NEW EDITIONS.

Messrs. Longmans and Co. send us *Lyra Germanica* (First Series), translated by CATHERINE WINKWORTH, in a small, neat, red-bordered edition; and *The Bible and Its Theology*, by G. VANCE SMITH. Fifth Edition.

