

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](#)

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

would appear frankly to recognise the Nonconformist bodies as Churches, and to propose intercommunion with them ; but it is hardly possible to estimate the importance or the value of the suggestions made until the sermons are available in type. They have, however, drawn out the loudest indignation from the *Church Times*, which, under the stress of this disappointment, recovered something of the old freedom of invective which people associate with the days of Littledale.

We regret to learn that that very useful institution the Bethnal Green Free Library is much in need of funds. Its Committee are anxious to wipe out a debt that sadly cripples the extension of their unique work, especially now that the long, dark nights bring the usual crowd to its doors. Contributions in any form will be gratefully received by the Treasurer, Mr. F. A. Bevan, at 54, Lombard Street, E.C. ; by the bankers, Barclay and Co., at the same address ; or by the Secretary and Librarian, at the Bethnal Green Free Library, N.E.

Reviews.

THE "ENCYCLOPÆDIA BIBLICA."

Encyclopædia Biblica, Vol. II. (E to K). Edited by Professor T. K. CHEYNE, D.D., and J. ROBERTSON BLACK, LL.D. London : A. and C. Black.

THIS volume is in some of its aspects an excellent example of the best modern scholarship. Many of the articles are, to all intents and purposes, treatises on the subjects of which they speak, and the most exacting critic could hardly fail to admire the philosophical accuracy, the minute attention to detail, and the wealth of learning that have been lavished on the book from first to last. Nothing apparently has been neglected to render this Encyclopædia an exhaustive work of reference. The geographical articles are a case in point, supplemented as these are by maps of unusual excellence and precision. The reader who has followed us so far may conclude that the "Encyclopædia Biblica" is a work to be unreservedly commended to students of the Old and New Testament alike. We hasten, however, to disclaim any such commendation. The book is, we fear, vitiated by a fundamental unsoundness of principle. It assumes that the theories and hypotheses of the extreme school of criticism are alone true, and upon this basis further hypotheses are reared, which, if accepted, would go far to upset the authority of Bible and of Church, eliminate the miraculous from the realm of phenomena, subvert all received opinions, and make shipwreck of the faith, as that faith has been understood for nearly two millenniums. The "Encyclopædia Biblica" is, in the main, not so much a Bible dictionary, as a dictionary of the Higher Criticism in its most advanced form.

Now, we contend that, however right and proper it may be to write separate books in which hypothetical criticism sounds the dominant note, it is neither proper nor right to impose upon the public as a dictionary of the Bible a body of rationalistic criticism. What one looks for—and is justified in looking for—in a work such as this is a careful collection of facts and data which none can gainsay, as the raw material, so to speak, out of which each student may form his own theories, if he has the fancy. So great is the authority of any considerable cyclopædia like the present work that the average reader takes on trust whatever he finds there,

accepts all the theories (that do duty for facts) as facts, and quotes these as the authoritative dicta of criticism, final and irrefragable. Now, a cyclopædia should represent criticism in equilibration, not criticism *in extremis*. We have already seen Dr. Cheyne's work quoted by rationalists and others as though it were a supreme court of adjudication, from which there was no appeal, to the serious detriment of independent thought; and we regret this all the more because there is so much in the book that commands our admiration and respect.

By way of substantiating what has been said above, let any reader peruse the articles entitled "Gospels," by Drs. Abbott and Schmiedel, and the article on "Jesus Christ," contributed by the late Professor A. B. Bruce. *If*—a thing we do not believe—these two remarkable productions are to be accepted as giving, even in an attenuated degree, a truthful witness, then it is quite time that Christianity should look to itself and reconsider its position. The outposts have been already captured, and practically the inner sanctuary of the religion is doomed.

Professor Schmiedel clearly enough shows his hand. First, he lays it down as an axiom that miracles are incredible; next, he assumes that the Gospels were, one and all, *tendenz-schriften*, written by "worshippers" of the "Hero" Jesus; and then goes on to his main conclusion—*i.e.*, that the main fabric of the Gospel narratives is utterly untrustworthy. This is frank dealing; and we are glad, of course, that so flagrant an instance should be forthcoming, because it proves our contention that this "Encyclopædia" cannot be relied on for yielding any dispassionate evidence of the real facts, or for disclosing exactly the ascertained results of sober and unbiassed criticism. Professor Schmiedel is, we do not hesitate to say, an unscientific writer, for the simple reason that, before undertaking to elucidate the problem of the Gospels, he had prejudged the whole question.

The late Professor Bruce's article, "Jesus," is, though less openly defiant, quite as unsatisfactory in its way. Like Renan, he brings his account of our Lord's life to a close with the crucifixion. Of the Resurrection, in any legitimate sense, or of the Ascension, he is significantly silent. Is this fair? Is it even commonly honest for the writer of a great Biblical encyclopædia thus to suppress questions of such vital import, to ignore the very foundation verities of Christianity, or, at least, to surrender them in ignoble silence?

We have said enough, we imagine, to justify the passing of severe criticism. We regret that Dr. Cheyne, an ordained and stipendiary minister in the Church of England, should have permitted this work to go forth, under the ægis of his name, as representing the ascertained "results" of scientific and historical study. Such results are not science, and they are not history. The character of the book *as a whole*, despite the ability and labour displayed in editing it, the scholarship of the contributors, and the admirable articles that frequently illuminate its pages, is not such as to warrant an unqualified welcome.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

The Missionary Speaker's Manual. By the Rev. A. R. BUCKLAND, M.A., and the Rev. J. D. MULLINS, M.A. London: James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.

Clergy and laity anxious to help the missionary cause, but unable to digest any great mass of its literature, have long felt the need of some convenient handbook which should supply in a compact form the information they want. Their desires are met in the "Missionary Speaker's Manual," which has just seen the light. Any clergyman who has to preach a missionary sermon or address a missionary meeting will here find

all the help he can need. If he wants pulpit aid, he will find a large collection of outlines which, in subject and in treatment, show freshness, as well as homiletical skill. If he wants the bare facts of a great Society's work, he will find them in the conspectus of British missionary agencies. If he seeks illustrative matter, he will find a large collection of facts, anecdotes, opinions, etc., each of which is provided with an exact reference to its source. Thus every fact and statement is fully verified, and nothing is taken for granted. If it is a platform case, then the facts and statistics should supply all that is needed. In addition, there are hints to chairmen and speakers, a collection of prayers for use at missionary meetings, and one of passages of Scripture suited for such occasions. There is a calendar of foreign missions, a list of missionary martyrs, and some useful statistics. The work is very conveniently subdivided, and is fully indexed. It is the outcome of much experience, and should be widely used by all workers in the missionary cause.

The Greek Thinkers. By Professor THEODOR GOMPERZ. Translated by LAURIE MAGNUS. London: J. Murray.

This volume is the first instalment of a history of Greek philosophy by the distinguished Vienna professor, Dr. Gomperz. The English version has been rendered directly from the German edition of 1896, with the assistance and collaboration of the author. One is not accustomed to look for charm in German works of science, but the present work is a noticeable exception, and the translation reads like an original. Could one give higher praise? The book, though as brilliant as it is charming, is by no means a "popular" sketch, in the general acceptation of that well-worn term; for not only is it a fresh and vigorous presentation of the problems of philosophy, as these were dealt with by the Greek thinkers, but a thoroughly scientific account of the subject in all its manifestations. The book is not written from any one-sided point of view; the various tendencies of ancient thought—every one of which has contributed its part to the structure of modern intellectual civilization—are impartially considered. And the enlightened character of the book may be gauged by the fact that Professor Gomperz brings a variety of side-lights—from religion, from history, from literature, and from science—to bear upon the central theme. The present instalment of this history of philosophy brings us down to the days of Protagoras and Gorgias; Part II. will deal with Plato and Socrates; while a third part will be devoted to Aristotle and the Stoic and Epicurean systems. We do not know whether Neoplatonism is or is not to be discussed later on in the work, but it is desirable, surely, in the interests of completeness, that some space should be devoted to Plotinus, whose real greatness has, perhaps, been allowed to be forgotten by historians of Greek philosophy; yet we contend that no history is complete that ignores the philosophy of the Neoplatonists. Armed with Professor Gomperz's book, and with a copy of Ritter and Preller at hand for reference, the student ought to consider himself happy in his investigations. Made in the right spirit and conducted on right lines, such investigations cannot help being productive of useful fruit. We shall look forward with very great interest to the publication of the rest of Professor Gomperz's admirable and scholarly work.

Roads to Rome; being Personal Records of some of the more Recent Converts to the Catholic Faith. With an Introduction by Cardinal VAUGHAN. London: Longmans and Co.

This is in every respect a poor book. The sixty-five men and women who describe their experiences are mainly unknown persons. Even to make this list it has been needful to construe the word "recent" in a very liberal spirit. One of the perverts was received as long ago as

1846. Most of them reached Rome by the natural highway of extreme Anglican teaching, in some cases after having been reared in Evangelical homes. Few reason with much force, and some make themselves absolutely ludicrous. Doubts as to the validity of their orders and a desire to have their anxieties set at rest by authority seem to have been the serious impulses in most cases. But as a warning against some possible results of extreme Anglicanism the volume should be distinctly useful.

THEOLOGICAL WORKS.

Notes on the Round-Table Conference. By the Rev. N. DIMOCK. London: Elliot Stock.

Readers of the *CHURCHMAN* who recognised the value of Mr. Dimock's articles on the doctrine of the Holy Communion as discussed at the Round Table Conference will see with gratitude that he has embodied them in a volume. To his chapter on "The Real Presence and the Death of Christ" he has now added a long *catena* of extracts from English divines in support of the doctrine maintained by him. He also discusses in additional chapters "The Real Presence and the Mode" and "The Real Presence and the Sacrifice." The massive erudition displayed throughout this volume makes it one of permanent value to every student of the Eucharistic controversy. The position taken up by Mr. Dimock and other representatives of the Evangelical school at the Round Table Conference was found to be unassailable; and the more carefully the true attitude of the English Church on the doctrine of the Lord's Supper is examined, the more clearly will it be seen that the Neo-Anglican interpretation is without adequate warrant of any kind. We hope that every student of the subject will obtain Mr. Dimock's "Notes."

A Relation of the Conference between William Laud, late Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mr. Fisher the Jesuit. A New Edition, with Introduction and Notes by the Rev. C. H. SIMPKINSON. London: Macmillan and Co.

This new edition of Laud's Conference with Fisher the Jesuit appears as a number of the "English Theological Library," which the Rev. F. Relton is editing. The matters at issue between the two disputants and the arguments employed on either side are so very much in evidence to-day that we welcome the appearance of the book in an attractive and accessible form. Mr. Simpkinson's introductory matter enables the reader to provide the Conference with a background, and his notes are useful.

Purgatory; The State of the Faithful Departed; The Invocation of Saints. Three Lectures. By A. J. MASON, D.D. London: Longmans and Co.

Professor Mason's lectures are extremely welcome. Whilst dissenting from some of his statements, particularly in regard to his second subject, we can welcome the volume as on the side of the sober belief of the English Church. It is well that more moderate High Churchmen like Dr. Mason should publicly dissociate themselves from the studious attempts to assimilate the teaching of our own Church to that of Rome. That is what Professor Mason here does in regard to three points of doctrine.

Theology, Old and New. By the Rev. W. F. COBB, D.D. London: Elliot Stock.

Dr. Cobb's volume opens a series of manuals, to be issued at half a crown net, on various aspects of the Church's life and work. A wide

variety of subjects have already been undertaken, and the authors will include Bishop Barry, Dean Stubbs, Canon Pennefather, the Rev. F. E. Brightman, and the Rev. Arthur Galton. Dr. Cobb approaches his own subject in a liberal spirit, and gives away much which Evangelical readers would retain; but his grasp of many fundamentals is strong and his tone reverent.

Biblia Innocentium. Part II. By J. W. MACKAIL. London: Longmans and Co.

In this volume Mr. Mackail gives a series of New Testament passages, freely rendered into modern English, suited to the understanding of children, and accompanied by legendary additions. The book is attractively printed and bound.

MORE CHRISTMAS GIFT-BOOKS.

Four Little Folk and Some of their Doings, by E. L. S. (Elliot Stock, 2s. 6d.), is a pretty story for children. Two little girls and two boys live in England with their mother, while their father is on active service. One little girl is delicate, and the family have to move into the country, to the delight of the children. Messrs. Seeley and Co. send us new editions of *The Life of a Bear*, *The Life of an Elephant* (1s. 6d. each), and *Only a Dog*, by a Humble Friend (1s. 6d.), books which all young people should enjoy reading. We have received from the S.P.C.K. two reprints, entitled *Dolph Heyliger*, by WASHINGTON IRVING, and *Waste Not, Want Not, and Other Stories*, by MARIA EDGEWORTH, JANE TAYLOR, and MRS. BARBAULD (6d. each, paper cover; cloth, 9d.). *Church Fasts and Festivals*, by REV. E. OSBORNE, MAUD CAREW, C. E. MALLANDAINE, F. E. READE, and E. M. GREEN (2s.), is a collection of short papers for young children, giving an account of the Church year. The articles are simply and clearly written, and will readily be understood and appreciated by quite little ones. *The Child's Bible* (Cassell and Co., 10s. 6d.) reaches us in an entirely new edition, reset in clear, handsome type, and with a hundred full-page pictures, including twelve in colour by W. H. Margetson. The volume contains such parts of Holy Scripture as seem most adapted to the wants and understanding of children, put into a consecutive form. It gives all the leading points of both the Old and the New Testament narratives in the words of the Authorized Version. *The Child's Bible* can also be got in monthly parts, price 6d. The volume is handsomely bound in brown and gold, with gilt edges.

The annual volume of the *Quiver* (Cassell and Co.) shows this old-established magazine as vigorous and attractive as ever. Two of the serial stories are contributed by Miss Whiting and Miss Giberne; the Bishop of Ripon, the Dean of Norwich, and the Dean of Canterbury are amongst the general contributors; and the illustrations are excellent. There could be no better gift-book of its kind.

A very pretty gift-book for a child may be found in *The Child's Pictorial Natural History* (S.P.C.K.). The twelve large pictures by Carton Moore Park are really admirable. The *Dawn of Day* volume will make an excellent book for parish distribution.

Clergy always welcome the S.P.C.K. Almanack and Diaries. The *Churchman's Remembrancer* is the book for the study table; the *Churchman's Pocket-Book* is his portable diary; the *Churchman's Almanack* in its various forms is welcome in the vestry or the reading-desk. The sheet almanack is as attractive as ever.