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Notices of Books.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.

ENGLISH APOLOGETIC THEOLOGY. By the Rev. F. W. Macran. London :
Hodder and Stoughton. Price 6s.

THERE are nine lectures included in this book, the first six of them being the Donellan Lectures in Trinity College, Dublin, for 1903-1904, and the remaining three added as a supplement, discussing various stages of the Socinian and Unitarian controversies. The book attempts to give a résumé of English Apologetics from the time of the Deistic controversy to the present day. After an introductory chapter reviewing the whole period comes a chapter on Bishop Butler, which is distinctly good, and will prove a useful introduction to the great Bishop's works. Then follows a chapter on Paley as representing the Evidential School, which followed the Deistic period. Paley naturally comes in for some criticism, but on the whole the author deals fairly with him and his work. Then we have an admirable chapter on the influence of Coleridge and Modern Theology, which is full of enlightenment, while not failing to point out the limitations and even dangers of his position. Two lectures follow on Evolution : its Moral Significance and its Relation to Theology. These seem to us to be the weakest parts of the work. The author is strongest on the historical and critical side, and his attempts at constructive theology expressed in terms of evolution are not quite successful. The task is far too large for the space allotted. In an appendix there is a clear and interesting summary of English philosophy from Butler to T. H. Green, and the student will find this short sketch an informing and useful account of the progress of English thought. Altogether the book is one to be noted by all who would be in touch with the best religious thought of the last three hundred years. The style is difficult at times, especially in the earlier lectures, and the greatest weakness of the book is its sketchiness. The canvas is not large enough for the figures that have to be placed on it.

HISTORY UNVEILING PROPHECY ; OR, TIME AS AN INTERPRETER. By
H. Grattan Guinness, D.D. *Fleming H. Revell Company.* Price
7s. 6d. net.

This work, like every other which comes from the pen of Dr. Grattan Guinness, is the result of extensive reading and prophetic study carried on for a long period of years. It "is a story of the gradual unveiling of the meaning of the Apocalypse in the light of the events of history. It traces this development through eighteen centuries, from the days of the Apostolic and martyr Church to those of the mediæval Church, the Reformed Church, and the Church of modern times. It is a history of the gradual evolution during eighteen centuries, under the influence of historical facts, of that system of interpretation which has commended itself to many temperate and enlightened minds, including those of Sir Isaac Newton, and Jonathan

Edwards in his history of Redemption, as in harmony with the Word and Providence of God." From the above it will be seen that the present volume, which is written in a clear and attractive style, is not so much an exposition as a history of the expositions given in succeeding ages of the Christian Church by those who have made the Book of the Revelation their study. The author is a strong upholder, like the late Professor Birks, Elliott, and all other writers of the historical school, of the year-day theory in prophecy. This he regards as completely established by the astronomical and cyclical character of the prophetic periods, notably of the time, times and a half, or 1,260 days of Daniel and St. John, which, reckoned as years, forms a complete soli-lunar cycle; while the same thing, as he shows, applies to the 2,300 of Dan. viii. 14, and especially to the 1,040 days (or years) which form the difference between these two periods. The evidence he produces for this from the Swiss astronomer, M. de Cheseaux, as well as from Professor Birks, is most suggestive, as are his own remarks upon this subject; and an author like Dr. Guinness, whose astronomical tables are in practical use in all the principal observatories in the world, and have received the confirmation and approval of so many leading astronomers, has a right surely to speak with authority upon such a point. Apart, too, from the prophetic aspect of the question, it is at least refreshing in days when so many are seeking to array science against Holy Scripture, to find such professional and mathematical authority brought forward to establish the strict scientific accuracy of the revelations granted to Daniel and St. John. As might be expected, Elliott's "*Horæ Apocalypticæ*" is much referred to and quoted from. Whereas, however, the last edition of Elliott's work was written in 1861, Dr. Guinness has the advantage of being able to review the events of the last forty-three or forty-four years as well as those now taking place with regard to the Jews. Elliott wrote in 1861: "Some signs are still wanting, especially the non-gathering as yet of the Jews to Palestine, and predicted troubles consequent." "Now," says Dr. Guinness, "we behold the commencement of the Jewish restoration so long foretold, and its commencement at the time indicated ages ago in the prophetic word." He then gives a most interesting account of the Jewish renaissance of modern days and of the progress of the Zionist movement, showing how the course of events is proceeding along the lines laid down in prophecy. The book is a valuable contribution to prophetic literature, and should be carefully read by every student of sacred prophecy, and, indeed by all who see in fulfilled prophecy one of the most remarkable branches of Christian evidence.

THE APPEAL OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. AN Examination of our Principles and Positions in the Light of History. By Arthur Galton. With a Preface by Henry Wace, D.D. London: *Dover Street Book Store*. Price 2s. net.

This book is an elucidation and extension of Jewel's appeal to the first six centuries as the standard, subject to Scripture, of belief and practice. Mr. Galton has no difficulty in showing the genuinely consistent tradition of the Reformed Church of England. The relation of the Church to Scripture is explained, and the fallacies of those who assert the supremacy of the

Church over the Bible are convincingly pointed out. The discussion of the Anglican position as against Rome is very effectively done, and there is much that will prove of service in meeting Roman claims. Not the least valuable part of the essay is the proof of the great differences between the older Anglican High Churchmen and the leaders of the Tractarian School. Quite apart from the precise question of Dean Wace's appeal, the book is a useful contribution to some of the greatest ecclesiastical problems of to-day.

AN APPEAL FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TO THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES. By Frederick Meyrick. London: *Dover Street Book Store*. Price 1s.

Canon Meyrick makes an appeal in this little book to the authorities of our Church in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as to whether the medievalists can justify themselves in respect to their characteristic beliefs and ceremonial. His task is an easy one, for there is no difficulty whatever in showing that medievalist demands have no justification in the Anglican Church of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Canon Meyrick has provided a handy and valuable series of extracts from leading divines of the Reformed Church, and we are glad to commend this little volume to "all sober, peaceful, and truly conscientious sons of the Church of England."

THE GOAL OF THE UNIVERSE. By S. W. Koelle. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 3s. 6d.

A cheap edition of a book which has already attracted some attention. The thesis is what is usually known as Universalism, that the purpose of our Lord's Incarnation is the redemption and salvation of the world in its widest and most exclusive sense. While we cannot agree with the author's main position, which we regard as one-sided and overlooking some of the main factors of the problem, we readily recognise the earnest and reverent spirit in which the subject is treated, the ease and lucidity of the style, and the frequent suggestiveness of his interpretations.

STUDIES IN THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST. By Charles Henry Robinson. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 3s. 6d. net.

A new and revised edition. The book commences with a delineation of the character of Christ, in which His uniqueness is used as an argument for Christianity. Then follows a consideration of some objections to this argument, and the book closes with a discussion of the relation of Christ to the world, with special reference to the future of mankind. The author is at his best in the first part in depicting and arguing from the character of our Lord. He does not seem to us so successful in meeting the objections, because of his too concessive spirit. Difficulties are not to be met by ignoring great sections of the New Testament teaching for the purpose of concentrating attention on other aspects. The view of the Atonement is entirely inadequate, and by its inadequacy becomes erroneous. The author fails entirely to account for some of the essential elements of Apostolic teaching. Because

men have over-emphasized the substitutionary view we are not to deny it altogether; and to say, as Canon Robinson does, that our Lord's death was not in some senses unique, is to give a wrong impression by taking a one-sided view. We breathe a truer and ampler air in the concluding chapters, where the picture of "The Christ that is to be" is truly inspiring and satisfying. Nothing could be better than this part of the discussion. The book is therefore necessarily unequal. It is best where it affirms and weakest where it denies. Its weakness lies in the too great tendency to separate our Lord's character from His atonement, and His example from His redemption. It is only by the careful balancing and correlation of these that we get the full New Testament truth. On its positive side, and with special reference to its title, the book is distinctly able, fresh, and vigorous, full of sympathy with men's difficulties, and on this account likely to be of real service.

HUMAN NATURE A REVELATION OF THE DIVINE. By Charles Henry Robinson. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 3s. 6d. net.

A reissue of a work published a few years ago. The first part deals with Old Testament criticism, the second with certain studies in worship. In the former part the position of modern criticism is frankly taken, and an attempt is made to give an account of the assured results accruing from a consensus of modern criticism. The treatment suggests very little else than a summary of the views of Robertson Smith, Wellhausen, and George Adam Smith. It does not show any real traces of the author having given direct attention to the essential positions of the traditional side. He seems to have been content to reproduce the work of the scholars now mentioned. The result is a curious mixture. On the one hand he gives the authority of Christ as the main reason for the acceptance of the Old Testament by Christians, and yet this is regarded as quite consistent with a treatment of the Old Testament which is far removed from our Lord's view of it. This is surely taking away with one hand what he gives with the other. It is also suggested what a boon it would be if a new Old Testament could be printed commencing with Amos, and how misleading it is to have it start as at present with Genesis i. In the discussion of inspiration and the proofs of authority, nothing is made of prophecy or of the definitely Messianic character of the Old Testament. God's revelation is regarded as proceeding along the lines of natural evolution. The whole treatment of the book is very unsatisfactory and perplexing; and as for confirming faith in the Old Testament, it does just the opposite, and makes the Old Testament harder to accept than ever. We read the former book by this author with great interest and no little profit, and came to this one with great expectations, only to find ourselves sadly disappointed. The latter portion of the book is mainly devotional, and deals with the structure and purpose of our offices of Morning and Evening Prayer. While it is full of earnestness, there is nothing especially striking or fresh. We have devoted more space to this book than its size warrants, because of the prominent position of the author in connection with a well-known missionary society. We can only express our deep regret at teaching so far removed from our Lord's view of the Old Testament.

THE *CRISES OF THE CHRIST*. By G. Campbell Morgan, D.D. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 3s. 6d.

The subject of this popular edition is the redemptive work of Christ. It comprises 400 clearly-printed pages by an eminent Congregational minister. The title strikes us as neither attractive nor lucid, but the substance of the book is good. The note of the evangel here delivered is in accordance with spiritual teaching and preaching. The book embodies addresses which are cast in the nature of studies in the life of Christ. Between the first chapter on "The Ruin of the Race," and the last, on "The Redemption of the Race," there are seven subjects dealt with in what the author calls "books." These are the Birth, the Baptism, the Temptation, the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Ascension. It is these seven topics which the author means by the term "crises." His object is to enlarge on the prominent points of our Lord's redemptive work, "rather than the processes" by which the central facts were reached. In so doing he deals with that life more particularly in regard to what Mr. Ruskin termed "not the natural, but the won life." He asserts that the "Incarnation prepares for Atonement," that the sufferings of Christ were "vicarious," "expiatory," "atoning." All this is amplified by figure, illustration, quotation, and appeal, and that, too, in a manner which leads us to think that Bible-class teachers and students in their study of the Gospel record may consult this book with advantage, especially as there is a subject-index at the end. Whether anything is gained by using such terms as "crises," "distanced," "resultant," and so forth, and by rather veiling a chapter on the Death upon the Cross with a heading "The Kingly Exodus," is perhaps a matter of choice; but florid or obscure headings may be regarded as minor points where the author's object is plainly to unfold the redeeming work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE *CHAIR OF ST. PETER*. By H. Forbes Witherby. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 2s.

The story of the well-known chair of St. Peter at St. Peter's, Rome, traced from earliest days and illustrated with a number of photographs. Protestant lessons are taught, and the essentially pagan character of the chair and its present use are clearly shown. This is a book well worth notice and study.

QUESTIONS OF THE HOUR. By the Rev. David Mullan. London: *Jarrold and Sons*. Price 2s. 6d.

The author has a burden upon his heart. He is profoundly convinced that the failure of the churches in regard to great public interests and responsibilities is due mainly to "our failure to give that due recognition to the supernatural which not only our deepest instincts demand, but which is warranted and authorized by the Holy Scriptures." Writing from the standpoint of an Irishman, the first three chapters deal with the religious situation in Ireland. Then follow chapters on the Supernatural, the Work of the Evangelist, the Work of the Teacher, and various aspects of Revival, and on all these, as well as the other topics contained in the book, the author

writes earnestly and usefully. We are unable to accept his explanation of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, though perhaps our difference may be largely one of expression. Nor are we prepared to endorse his view of the crucial importance of St. Matthew iii., but his intense earnestness and genuinely spiritual and practical aim are undoubted and admirable, and the book will provide every reader with food for thought and inspiration to action.

PAROCHIAL AND HOMILETIC.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. By Cosmo Gordon Lang, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price: cloth, 3s. 6d. net; paper, 2s. 6d. net.

In these lectures, delivered in the Cambridge Divinity School in 1904, the Bishop wisely limited himself to the consideration of two difficulties and how they are to be met. "First, the dissolution of definite faith and custom in religion; and secondly, the indifference towards religion of the great masses of the people." The result is a successful and valuable book full of wise counsel, based on varied personal experience as a parochial clergyman and a Bishop. Among the special points are the emphasis placed on teaching, the strong insistence on preaching, and, in order to these, the absolute necessity of reading. The Bishop points out with great force that no organization, however strong or complete, can make up for the intellectual and spiritual equipment for the ministry. At the same time, methods of work, such as men's services, clubs, and other special efforts, all receive attention, and on each Dr. Lang has much to say that is wise and fruitful. Occasionally we notice a tendency to identify the Church of Christ with the Church of England, and the advice on biblical criticism is vague and indefinite where it is not positively unsatisfactory. The Bishop's views on the Sacraments and on Confession are not ours, nor, with all respect, do we think them warranted by the Prayer-Book. Apart from these, to us, serious weaknesses, the book will do nothing but good, and we are thankful that the Cambridge undergraduates should have had the opportunity of listening to so much wise, earnest, and statesmanlike advice. The author's close grip with the realities of East End work is very refreshing to see. When will some "pious founder" make it possible to have a similar series of lectures in the Divinity School at Oxford?

THE CHURCH PULPIT YEAR-BOOK. London: *J. Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. net.

A series of sermons or outlines for each Sunday and Holy Day of the present year. The preface states that former issues have "proved a real boon to thousands of overworked clergy, in affording them some assistance in the preparation of their sermons." This will give an idea of the purpose of the book. We cannot say that we are enamoured of help of this kind. It is apt to be a "crutch" which ought not to be needed. If used with extreme care a busy man will find much suggestion in these pages, but it would be somewhat awkward if a number of clergymen in the same neighbourhood used these sermons.

PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION. By B. W. Randolph, D.D. London : Longmans, Green and Co. Price 1s. net.

Much wise counsel from an experienced head of a theological college, especially as to the value and necessity of thorough preparation of various kinds before Ordination. We entirely dissent from the author's sacramental teaching as being untrue, both to Scripture and to the Prayer-Book.

PAMPHLETS.

RELIGION IN THE HOME. By the Rev. A. B. G. Lillingston. London : Elliot Stock. Price 1d. Reprinted from the CHURCHMAN.

READING. An Address by the Right Rev. John Gott, D.D., Bishop of Truro. S.P.C.K. Paper cover. Price 2d.

WHAT IS MAN? An Address to Men and Women. By the Right Rev. G. F. Browne, D.D., Bishop of Bristol. S.P.C.K. Paper cover. Price 2d.

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