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

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

Literary Notes.

THE fourth series of Dr. Alexander Maclaren's "Expositions of Holy Scripture" is to be completed this autumn. Already in this section two volumes devoted to "The Psalms" have been published. Vols. III. to VI. will cover "Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Minor Prophets," "St. Luke" in two volumes, and "The Epistle to the Romans." The whole undertaking is a fine piece of work, and richly merits, as I understand it has already attained, a large measure of success. Dr. Maclaren brings to bear in his homiletic criticism an originality of thought, a felicity of expression, and a spirituality of mind, which make all the volumes very attractive and inspiring reading. He is pre-eminently the preacher for preachers, and no clergyman, young or old, should be without these books, which, when completed, will make a splendid library of Biblical commentary. Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton are the publishers.



Dr. Ralph Dunstan, who has had much to do with the musical training of the male and female students of the various Wesleyan training-colleges for teachers, has just completed "A Cyclopædic Dictionary; or, Hand-Lexicon of Music." There is hardly another work of its kind in the English language. Of course, there is the valuable Grove's Dictionary, but this is so very expensive. Dr. Dunstan has been at work upon his dictionary some four years, and it embodies the results of over thirty years' study and experience. Moreover, the price is, I understand, to be very low. There is "something about everything" concerning music in this work. There are about 14,000 musical terms and phrases expounded in the volume, while 6,000 biographical notices, the numerous short articles, the charts and tables, and the miscellaneous items of musical interest, cover an unusually wide field, and embrace every variety of musical topic. The short articles in themselves reach the respectable total of 500. The curious reader or musical antiquarian will also find the results of explorations into various "nooks and corners" under such headings as Bird Music, Colour and Music, Imitative Music, Music of Insects, Key Colour, Melody in Speech, Miraculous Effects of Music, Nature's Music, etc.



In Mr. Murray's "Wisdom of the East Series" there are to be added shortly three new numbers. They are published at 2s. net per volume, and are entitled, "The Heart of India," by L. D. Barnett, LL.D.; "The Book of Filial Duty," with twenty-four examples, by Iwan Chen; and "Sa'Di's Scroll of Wisdom," with the text in English and Persian, and with an introduction by Sir Arthur N. Wollaston, K.C.I.E.



There is at present no work by a modern English writer dealing with the certainly fascinating subject of Bees, from the literary and antiquarian, as well as the scientific point of view. But Mr. Tickner Edwardes has written one entitled "The Lore of the Honey Bee," which covers the whole field of ascertained facts in the natural history of the honey bee, as well as the

romance of beemanship, past and present. There are some excellent illustrations from photographs in the volume, which is published by Messrs. Methuen.



What should prove a very readable biography is Dr. Robertson Nicoll's life of Dr. John Watson. Of course, the literary atmosphere will probably predominate; but for all that, Dr. Nicoll will deal proportionately with "Ian Maclaren's" sphere of religious activity. It was, it may not be known to everyone, at the suggestion of the editor of the *Expositor*, and the more popular *British Weekly*, that Dr. Watson commenced writing his delightful and inimitable stories, so beautifully phrased and so pleasingly arranged. We may, therefore, reasonably expect a more than intimate account of his life and a very personal understanding of his literary temperament. The work is expected next month.



One is always on the look-out for new books by our great writers. And, I take it, none of my readers will gainsay the contention when it refers to Mr. Swinburne. In some sense it is a regret that those writers whose works one places upon the shelf devoted to modern standard authors—writers of repute whose views and reviews one may trust and treat with more than the usual cursory respect—do not make their appearance more often. Yet, on the other hand, it is well. For, as a rule, the author who turns his books out as a man rolls off the cinematographic films is, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, a person of ephemeral conditions, and a meteorite across the cloudy sky of literary intent. But in the case of Mr. Swinburne we are indeed most fortunate. It was only the other day we had the good fortune of looking at his "Duke of Gandia," probably one of the best, in recent times at least, of his poetic efforts. At the end of this month we are again to have, all being well, another work from his matured mind. Naturally there is much expectation regarding the event, and there is no doubt that the great expectations will be duly fulfilled. It is more than fifty years since Mr. Swinburne wrote the first word in a literary career which has brought him the plaudits of the highest intellects and the appreciation of the true lover of poetry from all quarters of the world. The new book is to be called "The Age of Shakespeare." The title is poignantly suggestive, and should be a very valuable piece of criticism.



Dr. Joseph B. Mayor, who is Emeritus Professor at King's College, Cambridge, has almost ready for publication, through Mr. Murray, his work on "Select Readings from the Psalms." The author's desire in preparing this volume has been to omit from the Psalms whatever might tend to interfere with their use as a handbook for Christian worship—that is, whatever is not up to the standard of the teaching of Christ and His Apostles. Working from this basis, the scope of study requires the omission of all expressions implying such conceptions of a future life, or of the nature and character of God, as are not fully in harmony with the more perfect revelation made in Jesus Christ. The Prayer Book and Revised Versions are given on opposite pages.

The S.P.C.K. have just issued the 1908 edition of their "Dictionary of the Church of England." It is the third edition and has many appendices, bringing the work up to the end of June last. This Society also has in the press the "Official Report of the Pan-Anglican Congress." It will be published shortly, and will contain the official report of the speeches and discussions at all the meetings and the various groups of papers. Altogether it is expected the work will make seven volumes, including an introductory volume, and will be published at 30s. net the set.



Dr. Peake, who is Dean of the Faculty of Theology in the Victoria University, Manchester, has a volume coming out in the early autumn dealing with popular objections and difficulties to revealed religion.



"A Century of Archæological Discoveries" is to come this autumn from the house of Murray. The author of this very important book is Professor A. Michaelis, of Strasburg, and it has been translated into English by Miss Bettina Kahnweiler, while Professor Gardner has written a preface, and, in the course of the same, says: "It is a work showing intimate knowledge, but it is no dry summary; rather a record of that writer, watching all with the greatest interest, learned as the scroll of excavation and research was gradually unrolled. This infusing of a personal element has made the book more interesting to the reader."



What should prove a readable volume is one which is appearing from the pen of Dr. C. H. H. Wright, through Messrs. Williams and Norgate, on "Light from Egyptian Papyri on Jewish History before Christ."



Mr. Andrew Melrose, publisher at 16, Pilgrim Street, informs us that he is about to admit as partner Mr. Ronald Spicer, son of Mr. George Spicer, of Enfield, and that the new firm will, after September 1, publish from premises at 3, York Street, Covent Garden. The newly-constituted house will develop publishing along broad and general lines, but the name of the firm will for the present remain unchanged. Mr. Ronald Spicer, who took an honours degree in Natural Science at Cambridge last year, is at present learning his business with Messrs. Chapman and Hall.



Notices of Books.

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLES TO THE THESSALONIANS. By the Rev. George Milligan, D.D. London: *Macmillan and Co., Ltd.* Price 12s.

It is well known that Bishops Lightfoot and Westcott and Dr. Hort planned to write between them a Commentary on the New Testament. It is, alas! equally well known that the project was never completed. Bishop Lightfoot's priceless volumes on St. Paul show what we lost by his appointment to Durham. What would not the Church give for a Commentary by him on Romans? Bishop Westcott's share we all know. Of Dr. Hort's part only the merest fragments are available, precious though they are.