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Turning to the book now before us—the final fruit of a life devoted to the elucidation of Oriental thought and language—we are struck by the extreme interest presented by the many problems with which it deals. Probably there is no Christian missionary in India whose power for good would not be increased by a careful study of this volume. The intellectual equipment of modern missionaries ought never to be regarded as a *quantité négligeable*; they ought to approach their difficult task of converting the heathen by first thoroughly understanding the thoughts and habits of those they hope to convert. Professor Max Müller's new book contains a fund of useful and suggestive matter. He shows here how intimately, not only India's religion, but also India's philosophy, is connected with the national character of its inhabitants.

We will undertake to say that a careful and intelligent study of the 600 pages which this book comprises will enable a student to get a firm and clear hold of the framework of the "Six Philosophies of India." The details he must fill in for himself by a first-hand study of the sacred books of the East. The volume is written with all that persuasiveness of which Max Müller is a master; that erudition which he utilizes to illumine, never to burden, his subject; and that rare literary finish which is the admiration of his countless readers.

E. H. B.

Short Notices.

The Silver Link. Annual Volume for 1899. Sunday-School Union.
Price 2s. Pp. 239.

The annual volume of this excellent illustrated magazine for home and school is full of good things to suit all tastes. The tales are very interesting, and there are a great number of articles containing useful information on many interesting subjects. "Every-day Life in Italy" makes a particularly readable series.

The Day of Days. Annual Volume for 1899. "Home Words" Office.
Price 2s. Pp. 240.

This admirable volume of Sunday readings maintains its usual excellence. Amongst a great deal that is so excellent, we may draw special attention to the series of biographical sketches under the title "Our Church Portrait Gallery," which includes Bishop Welldon of Calcutta, Bishop Perowne of Worcester, Canon Wilkinson, Prebendary Webb-Peplow, and the late "A. K. H. B."

The Month.

NEWS from the seat of war has been far from encouraging of late—mortifying in many ways to the pride of a great power, and doubly distressing inasmuch as the news is not of defeat alone, but tells of great sacrifice of life. Generally, the feelings of the English people are becoming slowly roused to something like exasperation; they are aware, in a vague way, that "someone has blundered." As we write (December 18) information is forthcoming that the general advance has begun. We are glad of it; a decided victory for English arms would be valuable in a variety of directions. We have learnt one lesson already—we ought

to have learnt it long ago—that it is a foolish and disastrous policy to underestimate the strength of a foe. In any case, the war is likely now to prove a very serious one. “Videant consules ne quid detrimenti Respublica capiat.”

The Lord Mayor's War Fund has already topped £400,000. This is a considerable sum; but it should be remembered that, if everyone in the United Kingdom were to forego, for three days only, all alcoholic liquors, devoting the money which would otherwise be spent on such drink to the war fund, we should find the fund augmented, at one stroke, by considerably over £1,000,000.

Many thousands of pounds were guaranteed to meet any deficiency which might arise in connection with the Church Congress expenses for 1899. There is, however, a surplus for distribution for diocesan purposes. The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Prideaux, Booker, Frere, and Co., chartered accountants, 48, Lincoln's Inn Fields, who certify that, after the payment of all charges, there is a balance of £1,100 11s. 10d. In addition to this, the collections in St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and St. Mary Abbots amounted to £272 17s. 7d. The total of £1,373 9s. 5d. has been allocated by the Bishop of London and the Church Congress Finance Committee, of which the Bishop of Islington is chairman, in the following proportions: One half to the Bishop of London's Fund, and one-sixth to respectively the East London Church Fund, the diocesan branch of the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund, and the Poor Schools Relief Fund administered by the Diocesan Board of Education.

The general subject to be considered at next year's Islington Clerical Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, January 9, is Archbishop Benson's famous description of the Church of England as “Catholic, Apostolic, Reformed, and Protestant.” These divisions will be considered at the morning session by Canon Edwards, Chancellor Bernard, Bishop Barry, and Professor Ryle respectively. In the afternoon the following questions will be discussed: “How can the Church of England Faithfully Discharge her Duties to the Nation as a Whole?” (to be opened by Archdeacon Perowne and the Rev. F. S. Webster) and “How can the Church of England Faithfully Discharge her Evangelistic and Pastoral Office to Individuals?” (to be opened by Prebendary Webb-Peploe and the Rev. E. A. Stuart). As usual, the morning session will begin at 10.30, and that in the afternoon at 2.30, and the meeting will be held, as last year, in St. Mary's Hall, Islington Green.

The Bishop of Carlisle announces in his *Diocesan Gazette* that at the recent meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops, the first Sunday in the New Year, January 7, was selected as the most suitable day for a simultaneous appeal in all churches on behalf of the war funds.

An interesting MS. has lately been given to the Lichfield Cathedral Library by the Rev. T. Barns, Vicar of Hilderstone. It contains the treatise “On Contemplation,” which was written by St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, and sent in parts to his friend and former pupil, Pope Eugenius III. (1145-1153). The MS. has twenty-seven leaves, vellum, 9 inches by 6½ inches, and is written in an English hand of the fourteenth century.

The Council of University College, Liverpool, have appointed unanimously Mr. Alfred W. W. Dale, M.A., Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and son of the late Rev. R. W. Dale, D.D., of Birmingham, to

the post of Principal of the College, in succession to Principal Glazebrook, who has been appointed to an important position under the Royal Society.

The Viceroy of India has telegraphed that the situation in many of the affected districts is being aggravated by want of rain. The total number of persons on relief works at latest reports was 1,358,000.

The authorities of the Evangelical Alliance have issued the following invitation for the annual week of united prayer: "The meetings proposed to be held throughout the world will take place January 7 to 14, 1900."

Through the munificence of the Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop's School in that city has been endowed to the amount of about £200 a year.

At the unanimous invitation of the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Rev. John Holland Ritson has accepted the post in the secretarial department of the society left vacant by the transfer of the Rev. J. Gordon Watt to succeed the late Dr. William Wright as Editorial Superintendent. Mr. Ritson held the Brackenbury Science Scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford (B.A., 1890; M.A., 1893), and entered the Wesleyan ministry in 1890. He will be the first Methodist to hold a secretaryship of the Bible Society, the Nonconformist secretaries having been almost without exception Congregationalists.

The Dean of Rochester has just completed his eightieth year, and the venerable octogenarian (says the London correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post*) will receive from both sides of the Atlantic such a shoal of good wishes as would be accorded but to few other men. "The hold which Samuel Reynolds Hole has acquired over the hearts of his countrymen is due to a variety of causes, but, chiefly, perhaps, to the fact that to a rigid conscientiousness and strictly Christian example he adds a robust common sense and rich humour which seem to come naturally from one of his manly aspect and courtly bearing."

The builders are now engaged upon the second block of the permanent buildings of the Church House in accordance with the plans revised by the late Sir Arthur Blomfield. It is estimated that the cost will be £20,000, towards which about £11,000 has been contributed or promised.

The meeting summoned to his house by the Bishop of Rochester, at which a definite movement was made for the creation of a new South London diocese, calls for attention. It will be remembered that the reconstruction of the diocese of Rochester has been mooted for a great number of years, and that as far back as 1888 Convocation recommended its subdivision; in fact, it is not too much to say that the question of the reconstruction has been before men's minds ever since its construction in its present unshapely form. Its main point is that it recognises the County of London south of the Thames as the future diocese of Southwark, but adds to it the archdeaconry of Kingston, on the ground that such a large area of poor needs the support of some of the well-to-do suburbs; and, indeed, there is justice in this, because the wealth of the suburbs is, in the main, derived from those London enterprises which are served largely by the dwellers in South London. It is encouraging to learn that already, before the subscription list has gone to the public, a sum of no less than £23,500 was announced in the room, and we are

not surprised to hear that the committee thereupon resolved itself into three sub-committees—one to introduce a Bill into Parliament, another to continue the collection of money, and the third for general purposes. The whole sum required is estimated at £100,000, and if it should fall out that any portion of the proceeds of the sale of Addington should be devoted to the creation of a neighbouring diocese such as this, it ought not to be very long before the much-talked-of South London see, with the already restored church of St. Saviour's as its cathedral, is an accomplished fact. (From the *Guardian*.)

Sir Hubert Parry has been appointed Professor of Music at Oxford in place of Sir John Stainer, resigned. The choice is the best that could possibly have been made.

AN APPEAL.

The Bethnal Green Free Library.—In its quiet way this institution is conducting a grand educational work amongst the crowded and poverty-stricken population of the East End. Not only is the library a well-stocked one and varied in character, but evening classes are arranged and other steps taken to interest and instruct the young who live in the vicinity. Year by year the number of readers and students increases, while the healthy influence exercised is self-evident to everyone who contrasts the condition of Bethnal Green to-day with the state of things that existed twenty years ago. At the moment the coffers are well-nigh exhausted, and consequently a special appeal for funds is being made. That it may be generously responded to will be the earnest hope of all who recognise the useful character of the work being done and are aware of the opportunities there are for further development. Contributions should be sent to the Treasurer, F. A. Bevan, Esq., J.P., 54, Lombard Street, E.C.; the Bankers, Messrs. Barclay and Co., Limited, same address; or to the Secretary and Librarian, Mr. G. F. Hilcken.

NEW BOOKS.

- The Life of Edward White Benson, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury.* By his Son, A. C. BENSON (of Eton College). In 2 vols.; 36s. net. Macmillan.
- A New History of the English Church.* Edited by Dean STEPHENS and Rev. W. HUNT. In seven vols. Vol. i.: 597-1066. By Rev. W. HUNT. Price 7s. 6d. Macmillan.
- Exploratio Evangelica.* A Brief Examination of the Basis and Origin of Christian Belief. By P. GARDNER, Litt.D. Price 15s. A. and C. Black.
- The Book of Proverbs* (International Critical Commentary). By Professor C. H. TOY. Price 12s. T. and T. Clark.
- The Ritschlian Theology.* A Critical Estimate. By Rev. H. E. GARVIE, B.D. Price 9s. T. and T. Clark.

OBITUARY.

Lord Penzance, whose name was so familiar to Churchmen a quarter of a century ago, died at his residence, Eashing Park, Godalming, on Saturday, December 9. He had been ailing for some time, but had only comparatively recently resigned his position as Dean of the Arches and Judge of the Court established under the Public Worship Regulation Act of 1874.