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## Short Notices.

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*The Trial of Jesus Christ.* By A. TAYLOR INNES, Esq., Advocate. T. and T. Clark. Pp. 123. Price 2s. 6d.

CHRIST standing at the world's bar is a picture the pathos and import of which command the attention of all men. Within modern times there have been several noteworthy attempts to justify the action of our Saviour's judges from the standpoint of legal necessity. This present work examines the two trials, the Hebrew and the Roman, from a strict standpoint of the legal procedure of those times. The conclusion reached is that in both trials the judges were unjust, the trials unfair in many particulars, yet that the right issues were substantially raised—Christ had been treasonable to God, or else He was God; He had been treasonable to Cæsar, or else He was King of kings. He was condemned by those who denied His divinity and rejected His sovereignty. And on these two issues He awaits the verdict of every man's choice to-day.

*History of the Captivity and Return of the Jews.* By the Rev. E. J. NURSE. Elliot Stock. Pp. 83. Price 2s. 6d.

The literature concerning this period of history has grown enormously of late years. But it presents insuperable difficulties to ordinary readers of Holy Scripture. It is the object of the writer of this small book to give a comprehensive picture of the chief events of the period. Contemporaneous psalms are usefully interjected in the account, and there are good chronological arrangements. The reader should be able to gain from these pages an accurate and clear knowledge of the period under discussion.

*The Holy Land.* Vol. I., Geography (pp. 96). Vol. II., History (pp. 136). By TOWNSEND MACCOUN, M.A., etc. S. W. Partridge and Co.

We have never seen anything to equal the special features of these two small volumes. When it is said that they contain no less than 145 plates of maps, charts, and diagrams, it will be understood how completely they illustrate the geography and history of the Holy Land. Everything here is on a small scale, but it is perfect in its way, the relief maps being particularly good. Concise letterpress, based upon the most credited results of recent Biblical criticism, explain and add value to the maps. The price of these volumes will bring them within the reach of the average Sunday-school teacher, and they will help him greatly in his preparation. But they will certainly have a permanent place on the shelves of the more advanced theological student.

*Aspects of Protestantism.* By the Rev. A. H. GRAY. Hodder and Stoughton. Pp. 149. Price 1s. 6d.

Five lectures delivered to a Presbyterian congregation upon the growth of Roman Catholic doctrines and practices in England. The

discussions are rather by positive teaching than controversial negations. Faith, priesthood, authority, ceremony, the present opportunity are dealt with in an original manner. The book is soon read and is well worth reading.

*Scripture Teaching, illustrated by Models and Objects.* By the Rev. J. G. KITCHIN, M.A. Church of England Sunday-school Institute. Pp. 288.

The Church of England Sunday-school Institute has for some time possessed an excellent museum of objects and models illustrating the Holy Scriptures. The teacher who uses such articles possesses a very special power to interest and impress the minds of the children instructed. This book seeks to increase the number of such teachers by dealing with a wide area of subjects, in which model objects may with advantage be used. Suggestions are made for the manufacture, the purchase, and the hire of models. There are many good illustrations in these pages which will stimulate those who seek to make their teaching vivid and realistic.

*Notes for Boys (and their Fathers).* By an Old Boy. Elliot Stock. Pp. 213.

It is given to few books to reach an eighth edition. A glance at these pages, however, reveals at once why they have achieved the unusual. They are full of manly, stimulating, "straight" talks to boys on just those subjects on which the "long, long thoughts" of youth most need unaffected and God-fearing direction. It is particularly suitable as a gift for public school boys. They will smile at it here and there as a little old-fashioned or maybe old-fogeyish. But they will read it, and it will help their lives.

*Letters of Archdeacon H. H. Dobinson.* Seeley and Co. Pp. 231.

"He was a steady, reliable forward, who could always be depended upon to do his own work well, and to keep a side together," so wrote one who knew him in the Repton football fields. It was true of him in the greater game of life. His friends at Brasenose College thought it was "an almost shocking waste of good material his resolve to volunteer for the Church's service abroad." But from the year 1890, when he first went out to the Niger Mission at the age of twenty-seven to his death, seven years later, the expenditure of his life was as that ointment poured by the fragrant hand of love upon our Saviour's feet. The effects of his noble, holy life will not perish, and these manly, devoted letters will inspire many a young missionary in coming generations.

*In the Twilight.* By RUTH LAMB. R.T.S. Pp. 191.

The series of talks to girls which compose this volume first appeared in the *Girls' Own Paper*, where they were greatly appreciated. They are somewhat condensed here, and in book form will find an honoured place

on many a young lady's bookshelf. An excellent birthday present or confirmation gift for girls.

*I Believe.* By the BISHOP OF CALCUTTA. R.T.S. Pp. 93.

When Bishop Welldon was headmaster of Harrow he found everyday language the best to convey the truths of theology to the minds of lads. This book, which is dedicated to old pupils, speaks simply, but by no means superficially, of the great doctrines contained in the Apostolic Confession of Faith. If the Bishop's name were not on its title-page it would yet command attention by reason of the able simplicity which tells of wide reading and matured thought.

*Temperance Readings.* By Various Writers. C.E.T.S.

Those who conduct temperance meetings, parish entertainments, and similar gatherings are often at a loss for something to read aloud which shall be at once lifelike, pointed, and profitable. This is a capital selection of pathos, humour, wisdom, and home-thrusts, and will be appreciated by working-class audiences.

*Stories on the Apostles' Creed, etc.* By the Rev. E. J. STURDEE. Church of England Sunday-school Institute. Pp. 199.

None are quicker than children to find out and to repudiate mere lay figures in story-books. They will welcome the characters in these stories because they each have an individuality of their own. The lessons on the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Duty to my Neighbour, which spring naturally from them, will be remembered long after childhood's days are passed.

*Masters of To-morrow.* By W. J. LACEY. R.T.S. Pp. 224.

Samuel Smiles has had a host of imitators since his "Lives of the Engineers," "Character," and similar works first saw the light. Such writings undoubtedly appeal to a wide circle of readers in all countries. "Men have always delighted to scrutinize instances of fame and prosperity." In the present book a host of striking sayings and doings of famous men are collected in a really striking and harmonious mosaic. Mr. Lacey has a breezy optimism, a courageous outlook on the world, and he will not make young men selfish and self-centred in his endeavour to give them high aims and strenuous motives. The concluding chapter specially urges the duty of putting God first, and the sad failure made by those who seek to get on merely to gain glory for themselves.

*The London Diocese Book, 1900.* Edited by Prebendary INGRAM. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 396. Rivingtons.

This very useful diocesan publication already exhibits a marked improvement on former issues; and it is plainly evident that when the new Editor has had the necessary time in which to effect other useful changes he has in view, the book will be what it *ought* to be—indis-

pensible. We cordially recommend it to the attention of every clergyman, churchwarden, or other church official in the diocese, as a book they cannot afford to be without.

*The Clergy List for 1900.* Kelly and Co.

The publishers are much to be congratulated on the admirable edition of the Clergy List which has just appeared. It is about the same size as last year's, and has only a continually increasing accuracy to offer. The labour of so continually altering the details in such a mass of matter must be immense. It is an invaluable handbook to the Church of England and its allies.



## The Month.

IF most of our notes this month have to do with religious societies and their anniversaries, that will be appropriate to the season. But there are certain other subjects so absorptive of public attention just now that it may be well to begin with them.

We will, however (having space), ask whether any of our readers ever see a monthly periodical entitled *Things to Come*. That it deals much with the subject of unfulfilled prophecy its title suggests. So it does. And on that subject we may reasonably expect careful and devout students of the Word to differ considerably. But there are also to be found in it most valuable articles on the Epistles of St. Paul, and on other Scriptural and seasonable topics. Another useful feature is this: Questions may be asked on Scriptural difficulties, and answers are supplied. When Dr. Ginsburg is one of the answerers—to name him only—it may be supposed that able answers are likely to be given.

The three out of the four "sore judgments of God" which have so long been upon us are upon us still: war, pestilence, famine.

As to the last, it may be questioned whether the amount contributed to the Lord Mayor's Fund be at all adequate to the necessities of the case.

As to pestilence, not only is India still suffering, but Australia is being touched, Mauritius too, and even Europe. At Cawnpore, of mournful celebrity, a "plague riot" has taken place. There the segregation camp has been destroyed by the mob, who killed four constables, and threw their bodies into the burning plague camp. Troops were called out, and ten persons were killed. In Australia recourse is being had to humiliation and prayer.