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Notices of Books.

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER AND HIS DUTIES. By J. Oswald Dykes, M.A., D.D., Principal Emeritus of Westminster College, Cambridge. Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 6s. net.

This is distinctly a useful book, written by one who, besides having much actual experience of ministerial work, has for years been engaged in training others for that work. Though written by a Presbyterian, there is very little of a denominational nature in its teaching. Indeed, there is hardly anything to which an English Churchman, except of the extreme High Church school, could not heartily subscribe. Like every man who looks fearlessly into the actual conditions of the present, and who has a high standard of what ministerial efficiency should be, Dr. Dykes deploras the very inadequate training which even now the average candidate for the ministry receives. He also shows that, supremely important as a knowledge of Holy Scripture is to one who will be called to expound it, a main ministerial efficiency cannot solely be measured even by a combination of erudition and high expository power. He adduces three spheres in particular in which men require far more training than they generally receive: first, that of dealing with individuals; secondly, that of Christian ethics (and especially such as will enable him to deal with questions of conscience); and, thirdly, that of the conduct of public worship. While laying every stress on the need of the highest qualifications for ministry, Dr. Dykes does not fail to call attention to matters which, though by no means unimportant from their issues, are not infrequently overlooked: *e.g.*, "Probably few ministers turn out badly from want of piety; but who has not known instances in plenty in which some defect of character, even some fault in manner, or idiosyncrasy of temperament, perfectly obvious to his companions, yet discovered too late, if discovered at all, by the man himself, has neutralized far more imposing qualities of mind and heart, or even wrecked in the end ministerial usefulness?" (p. 35). The quality of "sanctified common sense," which is characteristic of the book, is seen in the author's treatment of a difficulty which constantly meets the minister of a town parish to-day: How far is he called upon to join in work which is essentially useful in the highest sense of the word, and which certainly needs to be done, yet which cannot be said to belong strictly to the work of the parish or congregation to which he has been called? The two following criteria seem useful: (1) "Those forms of wider service have most claim upon his spare energy which are mostly in the line of his own work—those, that is, by which the spiritual ends of his ministry are best served." (2) "Where a choice is open, preference may lawfully be given to public engagements which, besides their other claims upon him, promise to promote his influence or usefulness at home, amongst the people of his charge" (p. 65). Altogether this is a book which, if neither very original nor very profound, is certainly calculated to be useful to the working pastor.

EXPOSITIONS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE. THE PSALMS. Vols. i. and ii. By Alexander Maclaren, D.D. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 7s. 6d. each.

Dr. Maclaren's *magnum opus* proceeds slowly but surely on its way, and those who have learned to value and profit by former volumes will wish the venerable author all success in the completion of his task. Although he is already responsible for a Commentary on the Psalms in three volumes of the Expositor's Bible, we have here his fuller expositions of separate verses and sections of most of the Psalms. In treating such parts of Scripture as the Psalter, Dr. Maclaren is at his best, and no one will consult him in vain. For a combination of clear thought, scholarly exegesis, deep spiritual experience, apt homiletic treatment, and keen personal application, he is unrivalled, and he ought to be the companion and model of all who have to preach and teach. He requires no praise at our hands. We can only counsel, and even urge, our readers to buy and use these admirable volumes.

LIBERAL AND MYSTICAL WRITINGS OF WILLIAM LAW. With an Introduction by William Scott Palmer. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

The special interest of this collection of William Law's writings lies in the Introduction by the editor and the Preface by Dr. Du Bose. The latter consists mainly of a plea for mysticism, which is explained to be "the immediacy and reality of God in us." Mr. Scott Palmer is a Modernist who has come out of Agnosticism into a peculiar kind of High Anglicanism wherein doctrine is about as nebulous as it can be. Thus, he favours Dr. Tennant's unscriptural view of sin, and his general position may be inferred from his reference to those whom he describes as "the men of our new Christian and Catholic thought," among whom he includes Newman, Tyrrell, Laberthonnière, and Loisy. To those who find in the New Testament teaching on the Incarnation and the Atonement the heart and core of the Gospel—that, indeed, which makes Christianity a "Gospel"—this Introduction, and, indeed, not a little from Law himself, will seem cold and poor. With all his remarkable powers, it may be questioned whether Law ever entered fully into the Evangelical Gospel, and it is probably safe to say that John Wesley would never have become the power he did if he had remained under Law's influence. Law is intensely keen and searching in his analysis of the human heart, and on certain sides he is a great help as one of our masters of the spiritual life; but it is only those who have accepted and entered into the full experience of the old Evangelical Gospel who can safely profit by Law's writings. Law by himself is mainly law, not Gospel.

NESTORIUS AND HIS TEACHING. By J. F. Bethune-Baker. Cambridge: *University Press*. Price 4s. 6d. net.

Nestorius has long been one of the most attractive figures in early Church history, and by far the most interesting "heretic" of those days. In the light of the recently discovered Apology of Nestorius, the author examines afresh the question whether Nestorius was a "Nestorian," and comes to the conclusion that he was not—that he was misunderstood and

misjudged, and that he would have supported most heartily the decision of Chalcedon. It is particularly interesting to find that Nestorius lived until after that Council. The discovery of a Syriac version of his own Apology is one of the most important "finds" of recent years. No one has read the story of Cyril's treatment of Nestorius without feeling the most intense sympathy for the latter, whether he was a heretic or not, and we need not accept in its entirety Kingsley's picture of Cyril to see that in him orthodoxy had a champion who was about as unchristian in his attitude to heresy as he could possibly be. It is curious that what we think is faithfulness to God is, after all, the old Adam creeping in and colouring our testimony. Mr. Bethune-Baker has in our judgment proved his case, and his book is a valuable contribution to the study of one of the most important and critical periods of Church history. The conclusions here drawn must be reckoned with in all future discussions of early Church history and doctrine.

THE TWO BOOKS OF THE KINGS. By Rev. W. E. Barnes, D.D. The Cambridge Bible for Schools. Cambridge: *University Press*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This is, we believe, the first volume of the Cambridge Bible for Schools which appears in duplicate. The materials for a new work have been growing so fast during recent years that it has been thought necessary to issue this edition, though it does not seem very long ago since we had Dr. Lumby's work on these books. The text of the Revised Version is presented, which is another welcome innovation, though we hope the day is not far distant when all these volumes will have the great convenience of the text of the interlinear version. Dr. Barnes's Introduction and Notes follow the usual plan of this series, and those who are called upon to study these books closely will find the available information clearly and succinctly set forth. We have been more than once compelled to express our regret that the serious and as yet unsettled questions of modern criticism are placed in so unqualified a way before the immature minds in schools and colleges, for whom this series is intended. Dr. Barnes is far too much inclined to attribute to story what the Books of Kings themselves claim to be history; and if these matters are to be set forth in a series of this kind, it seems to us that "schools and colleges" should also have the other side put before them. We are glad to observe in the Introduction a very useful account of the changes made in the Revised Version, and due attention called to the importance of consulting the marginal renderings.

THE TEACHING OF CHRIST. By W. L. Walker. Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

A new and revised edition of a little book published three years ago which has been for some time out of print. In the course of fourteen chapters the author presents various aspects of the teaching of our Lord, with special reference to its present appeal. He believes that the essential teaching of Christ will be found presented here. While there is very much that is truly spiritual and suggestive, we cannot feel satisfied about his view of the Fatherhood of God and of the Atonement. He argues for a universal Fatherhood together with a limited sonship, which seems to us an impossible

position. Fatherhood and sonship are surely correlative terms, whatever may be our interpretation. The Atonement is regarded mainly as a revelation of God's love and holiness for the purpose of eliciting man's response in repentance and obedience. This is of course true; but it is not the whole, or even the heart, of the New Testament truth concerning Calvary. As a guide to the study of the ethical side of our Lord's teaching in the Gospels, this little work will be of use and value, though on some of the fundamental doctrinal points we could wish a much clearer, more definite, and truer note sounded.

IN CHRIST'S NAME. By F. Homes Dudden, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 2s. net.

Four addresses delivered to Ordination candidates in the Diocese of London, and published at the request of the Bishop of London, who commends them in a brief preface. The general theme of the addresses is "In Christ's Name," and the first deals with "The Person of Christ," the second and third with "The Ideal of Christ," and the fourth with "The Methods of Christ as Teacher." Coming as they do from a well-known Oxford scholar, they are written in the full light of the most recent critical theories on Christ and Christianity. At the close of the first address the practical application is made that for all true ministry we must ourselves know Jesus Christ, and then preach Him. The Ideal of Christ in the next two addresses is considered to be the Kingdom of God together with the relations of Fatherhood, Childhood, and Brotherhood involved therein. The last address gives a very interesting and suggestive discussion of five characteristics of our Lord's teaching. We entirely endorse the Bishop's words commending this little book, and we believe it will be found stimulating to the spiritual life and inspiring to the work of all those who thoughtfully and prayerfully study it.

THE BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL LIFE. By Arthur T. Pierson. London: *James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 5s. net.

The third and concluding volume of the series of Exeter Hall Lectures on the Bible. Its aim is to show that for all the needs of man's moral and spiritual life the Bible is the exact provision and perfect satisfaction. There are fifteen chapters dealing with a variety of subjects, such as "The Bible as God's Book," "The Bible as Man's Book," "The Church of God," "The World that now is," together with the problems of the Family, the Individual, Salvation, Faith, Prayer, Service, Suffering, and Providence. The present volume is not equal to the other two of the series. While there is a great deal of valuable material, we are conscious of repetition and of unnecessary discussion of fairly obvious points. Dr. Pierson seems to have unloaded his notebook into these pages, and given us essays on a number of topics which, however useful, are not obviously and directly connected with his main theme. The diagrams which accompany the text do not always elucidate his points, and might easily have been dispensed with. But while in these respects the book does not seem to us to fulfil its direct aim, it contains abundant spiritual teaching which no one can study without deriving profit for mind and heart. Dr. Pierson's spiritual experience is so real and rich that he cannot help providing spiritual nutriment for his readers. His exposi-

tions and interpretations are not always convincing, but at any rate they provoke thought, and this is by no means a small matter. The book amply reveals the fertility of the author's mind and the width and abundance of his reading, and preachers and teachers will find here not a little useful material, even though they may not be able to endorse all the author's contentions.

THE LORD'S TEACHING CONCERNING HIS OWN PERSON. By Rev. Weyland Hoyt, D.D. London: *The Religious Tract Society*. Price 2s.

This is intended for young people who have been buffeted by questions about our Lord Jesus Christ. Starting with the fact of Christ, which is admitted even by doubters, attention is called to His universality, His astonishing claims, His sinlessness, and His personal power. Then the question is raised, "Who then is this?" and the answer is found mainly by considering the testimony of Christ to Himself with special reference to the designations Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah, Lord, God. Conclusions are then drawn as to His supernatural birth, His miracles, and His resurrection, and a very pertinent and personal application is made as to our personal attitude to Christ. Dr. Hoyt has provided us with an admirable compendium of argument, simple, clear, fresh, forceful, and convincing. It is just the book to lend to young people who are troubled with doubts, or who wish to have material with which to meet the doubts of others. We hope soon to see this little volume in a still cheaper form, for it can do nothing but good. There is a fine ring of confidence about it, and a personal experience which impresses and attracts the reader.

NOTES ON THE HISTORY BEHIND THE PSALMS. By A. M. Waller. London: *James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. 6d.

The result of the authoress's personal study of the Psalter aided by her husband's notes. An endeavour is made to get behind the Psalms to the history with which they are connected. Mrs. Waller sees in the five books a gradual compilation from the days of David to the return of the Captivity. She will not command assent for all her positions, especially her association of Book III. with the disruption of the kingdom under Rehoboam. We are glad to have attention freshly called to Dr. Waller's interesting and suggestive theory of how there came to be two books of the Davidic Psalms, each with a different name for God. Of course, the question of the historical allusions in the Psalms must necessarily remain very largely a question of probability. Mrs. Waller takes the titles of the Psalms as they are and endeavours to interpret them, but Dr. Thirtle's view was well worth considering. As a companion to the study of the Psalter there is much here that is useful and suggestive, and while it is impossible for all readers to accept the authoress's view of the history, no one will question the spiritual lessons she draws from the Psalter. After all, this is the main thing in the Christian use of the Psalms. As a negro once said, It is the Lord who is the Speaker, whoever was the secretary.

THE BIBLE AND WINE. By John Abbey and Ferrar Fenton. London: *S. W. Partridge and Co.* Price 2s. 6d.

The subject of wine in relation to the Bible is always with us, and this is a fresh contribution to the discussion. A new translation is given of all the

texts referring to wine and strong drink, and the main points of Mr. Fenton's contention are that the Hebrew word *Tirosh* never means "wine," but only fruit or grapes. It is also urged that, where intoxicating drinks are referred to in Scripture, their use in that form is invariably condemned and vehemently denounced. We are not capable of dealing with the critical aspect of this subject, though we are bound to say that the arguments in favour of the second contention do not always appear convincing. But quite apart from this, the main purpose of Mr. Abbey is beyond dispute. He is one of the most earnest of temperance workers, and we entirely share his abhorrence of everything connected with intoxicating liquor. We also very heartily endorse his earnest appeal that the Church should be quite free of all complicity with alcoholic drink. For our part, we should rejoice if unfermented wine or pure grape-juice were used at Holy Communion in all Churches. We know from personal experience of parochial work the danger of fermented wine in that Holy Feast. We commend this book to all clergy and other workers, for whether they agree with the critical views or not, they cannot help agreeing with the urgent plea of Mr. Abbey on the practical side of the question.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? Chapters on Biblical Criticism. London: *The Religious Tract Society*. Price 2s. 6d.

Six admirable papers on Biblical Criticism. Originally written and published separately, they are here collected and issued for general use. Mr. Hubert Brooke discusses the question whether the Bible is inspired; Dr. Sinker distinguishes between Facts and "Facts," with special reference to certain allegations of the critical school; Canon Girdlestone gives a very interesting "bird's-eye view" of discoveries illustrating and confirming the Old Testament; Dr. Leitch discusses Deuteronomy, which he rightly calls the key to the criticism of the Old Testament; while Dr. Ballard brings up the rear with a fine discussion on the truth of the Gospels. They provide an armoury of material in a very telling form. Their result is to show that we *can* trust the Bible, and that it is "the Word of God which liveth and abideth for ever." All Christian workers should get, study, and use this book; it is full of most striking facts, well stated, and forcibly applied to present-day problems.

SCRIPTURAL AND CATHOLIC TRUTH AND WORSHIP. By the Rev. F. Meyrick. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

A new edition of the late Prebendary Meyrick's welcome and valuable work. Here we have discussed "the faith of the Primitive, the Medieval, and the Reformed Anglican Churches," and those who know the author's careful scholarship and wise judgment will readily understand the value of this book. Step by step we are taken through the ages, and brought at length to the consideration of our own Anglican Communion, with special reference to present-day developments in the Church of England. The book deserves the widest possible circulation, and ought to be in the hands of all Churchmen. For young people, and also for those who are preparing for, or who have just entered, the Christian ministry, it will be particularly valuable.

PAMPHLETS AND PERIODICALS.

CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s.

This contains the Encyclical Letter of the Lambeth Conference, together with the resolutions and reports. In this convenient form the results of the Conference will be found very useful for reference and study. No one can read the various reports on which the resolutions are based without deriving much guidance and help in the consideration of some of the weightiest problems affecting the Christian Church.

THE OPTIMISM OF BUTLER'S "ANALOGY." The Romanes Lecture, 1908. By Henry Scott Holland. London: *Henry Frowde*. Price 2s. net.

The association of optimism with Butler's "Analogy" will strike many people as paradoxical, and yet, like many another paradox, it contains undoubted elements of truth. Canon Scott Holland here makes an earnest plea for the continued study of Butler, and all students of the "Analogy" will be glad of this newest contribution to a subject of permanent importance. It is marked by all those characteristics of its author's thought and style which have long been so familiar.

THE VISION OF UNITY. By J. Armitage Robinson, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 6d. net, paper; 1s. net, cloth.

This little volume contains the noteworthy sermon preached by the author at the opening of the Lambeth Conference. Three other sermons on the same subject are added, together with a closing paper on "The Function of the Anglican Communion." A preface calls further attention to the need of careful consideration of the subject of Christian Reunion. We are grateful to the Dean for this valuable contribution. He has done much to make the subject prominent during the last few weeks, and we hope the impetus thus given will be accelerated by the issue of these weighty utterances in so cheap and convenient a form.

RICHARD HOOKER ON CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION. By the Rev. John Harding. London: *The National Church League*. Price 1s. net.

A new and cheaper issue of a very valuable little volume containing Hooker's characteristic and distinctive teaching on the subjects of Confession and Absolution. To those who wish to know what the Church of England teaches, as represented by one of the greatest of her sons, this timely edition may be heartily commended.

THE WORK OF WITNESS AND THE PROMISE OF POWER. By Rev. Harrington C. Lees. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 6d. net.

As the Bishop of Durham, in his preface, rightly says, "This miniature book carries a weighty message." It is a call to consider the need and secret of the fulness of the Holy Spirit. We hope that it will obtain in its new and attractive form the wide circulation and great usefulness that its intrinsic interest and fresh treatment deserve.

THE VALUE OF HARDNESS. By Robert E. Speer. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 6d. net.

An address given at Northfield, U.S.A., by one of the best-known Christian workers in the United States. All Mr. Speer's utterances are marked by distinctiveness and force, keen insight, and intense earnestness of application. This is the very thing to give to young men, for it will brace them up and make real men of them.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY. London: *Church Missionary House*. Price 2s. net.

Once again we welcome this annual visitor, and are glad to call attention to its well-written, well-printed pages, illustrated by clear and valuable maps. For general purposes the most valuable feature is the index of special topics, which points the way to the provision of topics and illustrations for missionary addresses. In view of the extremely low price of this Report, it is worth buying for this material alone.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY. London: *Church Pastoral Aid Society*. Price 1s.

For those who wish to know what is being done under great difficulties in some of the poorest parishes in our country, this Report may be commended. It is prefaced by a brief but characteristic sermon by the Bishop of Durham.

ARTHUR MARGÖSCHIS. Mission Heroes Series. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1d.

A brief story of a beautiful life.