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Short Notices.

Luther's Primary Works, together with his Shorter and Larger Catechisms.

Translated into English, edited, with theological and historical essays, by HENRY WACE, D.D., Principal of King's College, London, and C. A. BUCHHEIM, Ph.D., Professor of the German Language and Literature in King's College, London. Hodder and Stoughton. Pp. 492.

EVERY student of Luther and lover of the Reformation ought to obtain this book, and to read it again and again. It places in the hands of Englishmen materials out of which to form for themselves a living and true portrait of the greatest of the uninspired servants of God. Now, for the first time, is it possible for Englishmen who do not know German to hear Luther himself. They need not henceforth ask for an interpreter. If they wish to understand his controversial spirit and method, let them read the three pamphlets on "Christian Liberty," on "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church," and that entitled "An Address to the German Nobility." If they wish to ascertain what Luther's theology was, when stated constructively, positively, and for all sorts of readers, then let them study his wonderful expositions of the Creed, the Commandments, and the Sacraments contained in the Catechisms greater and less. If, again, they desire to know what, in point of historical fact, were the beginnings of the Reformation, let them read the ninety-five theses which Luther composed and published in 1517. All these works are in this volume translated into good English, and illustrated by good notes. Dr. Wace and Dr. Buchheim have added an essay apiece, of great value, interest, and power. We cannot express our gratitude to them in terms sufficiently cordial for this timely and substantial service to the cause of sober and Biblical Protestantism. Will not the societies whose function it is to defend and promote Reformation principles spend a little money on putting the primary works of the greatest of the Reformers into the college libraries of England?

Bible Helps (The Illustrated Bible Treasury). Pp. 712. Nelson and Sons.

Dr. Wright, of the Bible Society, has brought out an admirable storehouse of Biblical learning, which is quite the best thing of its kind. There are three hundred and fifty illustrations, and nothing approaching to them in interest has yet been collected in a similar volume.

Among the contents are: Bible Study; Hints for Sunday-school Teachers; Our English Bible; Title of the Bible; Alphabets, Language and Text of the Old and the New Testament; Canon of the Old and the New Testament; Papers on History and Chronology, on Geography, on Science, Antiquities, and Bible Terms. The concluding section deals with the Apocrypha.

Among the contributors are Professors Bonney, Beecher, A. B. Davidson, Marcus Dods, J. D. Davies, Rendel Harris, McCurdy, Price, Ramsay, Biddle, Robertson, Sayce, George Adam Smith, and Warfield, Colonel Conder, R.E., Sir Charles Wilson, R.E., Canon Isaac Taylor, Canon Tristram, Dr. Gunther, and Dr. Wright.

Essay on Indifference in Matters of Religion. By the Abbé F. DE LAMENNAIS. Translated by LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY. Pp. 300. John MacQueen, Norfolk Street, Strand.

Lamennais was born in 1782, and died in 1854 in the debtors' prison at Ste. Pélagie, broken by the power of the Roman Church. He is one

of the most interesting figures in the history of French philosophy, not only for the work under review, but also for the "Paroles d'un Croyant," by which he protested against Roman authority, and by his vast synthesis, "Esquisse d'une Philosophie."

He is regarded as the founder of theological scepticism (or free inquiry) in the nineteenth century, and the progenitor of thinkers like Dean Mansel. Like Pascal, he borrows from Pyrrhonism, against the authority of our faculties. The errors of the senses, the errors of the reasoning faculties, the contradictions in human opinions—all this arsenal of scepticism is employed against human reason. After this destruction of all certitude, Lamennais attempts to re-establish what he has destroyed by reference to a new criterion—namely, universal consent. On this basis he seeks to establish the truth of (1) Deism, (2) Revelation, (3) Catholicism (*Ueberweg*).

Many of the arguments are strongly applicable to the state of religious opinion in England at the present time. Lord Stanley recommends chapter vii. in particular as an antidote to undenominational religious instruction, without an understanding as to what the Bible means.

Livy, Book XXII., Chapters i. to li. University Tutorial Series. By JOHN THOMPSON and F. G. PLAISTOWE. Pp. 128. Price 1s. 6d. W. B. Clive, Booksellers' Row, Strand.

An admirable specimen of a scholarly class edition. After the text (Weissenborn's) comes an Introduction, with a Life of Livy, Livy as a Historian, Livy's authorities for the Second Punic War, Foundation and Constitution of Carthage, History of Carthage before the Punic Wars, the First Punic War, and the Causes and Story of the Second Punic War. There is also a summary of Book XXII., and sixty pages of excellent notes.

How to Study Wild Flowers. Rev. GEORGE HENSLow. Pp. 224. R.T.S.

Mr. Henslow is Examiner in Botany for the College of Preceptors, and has had an experience of forty years of the kind. His useful manual is based on the structural classification, and is illustrated by all the necessary diagrams. He desires to encourage accuracy in investigation, and the training of the young mind in systematic observation. Botany is a fascinating pursuit and study, and Mr. Henslow is an experienced and sympathetic guide. His studies are subject to the principle that science affords the strongest confirmation of the words: "God is not far from each one of us: for in Him we and all nature live and move and have our being"; "To all who will see, Earth is crammed with Heaven."

Princes Three and Seekers Seven. By MARA COLQUHOUN. Pp. 260. London: Elliot Stock.

Two pleasant sets of fairy tales. The first set follows the adventures of the hero of the familiar "White Cat" story, and of his two brothers, the Red and the Blue Prince. All the stories have a wholesome moral. Excursions into the realms of imagination are good for young people in these prosaic days.

Behind the Bow-Window. By K. M. FITZGERALD. Pp. 159. Price 1s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

This interesting and well-written story may be placed with advantage in any lending library, either in town or country.

The Basket of Flowers. Pp. 143. Price 1s. Sunday-School Union.

This little book needs no recommendation, having long ago established itself as a most popular story. Its reissue needs no apology; it is always sure of readers; and we have only to congratulate the publishers on its letterpress, illustrations, and cheapness.

The Child's Own Magazine. Pp. 144. Price 1s. 6d. Sunday-School Union.

This pretty little volume contains a serial story, a number of short stories, puzzles, and poetry, and the illustrations are numerous and charming. It is a delightful book for the little ones.

Grandmother Gwen. By the Author of "Earth's Many Voices." Pp. 109. Price 1s. S.P.C.K.

A story from the able pen of the author of "Earth's Many Voices" is always welcome; and this is a very pretty specimen, though perhaps it will be more appreciated by the inhabitants of Wales than by the majority of those of England.

A Thankful Heart. By Lady DUNBOYNE. Pp. 160. Price 1s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

This story is perhaps more suitable for girls in the schoolroom than for the parochial library; but its tone is healthy, its dialogue bright and natural, and it would make an acceptable Christmas or New Year's reward book. We regret to see that the S.P.C.K. has made no advance in the matter of illustrations this Christmas.

Dorice; or, Not all Gold that Glitters. By Mrs. SHOREY. Pp. 104. Price 1s. Stoneman.

A very good specimen of a temperance tale, not too violent in tone.

From that Lone Ark. By EDWARD N. HOARE. Pp. 376. S.P.C.K.

A stirring tale of sea-coast life, with a due admixture of villainy and virtue, character and incident, mistakes and reparation. The Ark is the sobriquet of the lonely house of the heroine's father on a headland.

A Clever Daughter. By Mrs. HENRY CLARKE, M.A. Pp. 160. Price 1s. 6d. Sunday-School Union.

A sensible story of the risks of priggishness and selfishness in our modern higher education of women, happily overcome by domestic experience and Christian principle.

A Little Lass and Lad. By SARAH TYTLER. Pp. 310. S.P.C.K.

Stories of village life are always interesting when written by those who understand it, on account of the freshness and unconventionality of their details. Miss Tytler understands rural characters, and unfolds them well, with just so much of misunderstanding and estrangement finally reconciled, by way of plot, as to give unity to the narrative.

MAGAZINES.

We have received the following (January) magazines :

The Thinker, The Expository Times, The Religious Review of Reviews, The Anglican Church Magazine, The Church Missionary Intelligencer, The Evangelical Churchman, The Church Sunday-School Magazine, Blackwood, The Cornhill, Sunday Magazine, The Fireside, The Quiver, Good Words, The Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Girl's Own Paper, The Boy's Own Paper, Light and Truth, The Church Worker, The Church Monthly, The Church Missionary Gleaner, Light in the Home, Awake, India's Women, The Parish Helper, Parish Magazine, The Bible Society's Gleanings for the Young, The Bible Society's Monthly Reporter, The Zenana, The Cottager and Artisan, Friendly Greetings, Little Folks, Our Little Dots, The Child's Companion, Boy's and Girl's Companion, The Children's World, Daybreak, Day of Days, Home Words, and Hand and Heart.

