

Reviews.



GENERAL LITERATURE.

The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion. By J. G. FRAZER, D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. *Second edition, revised and enlarged.* In three vols. London: Macmillan and Co., 1900. Price £1 16s. net.

IT is just over ten years ago that Mr. Frazer issued the first edition of his "Golden Bough." That edition was in two volumes; the present edition is in three volumes; but as the type is set more closely in the present edition, we should say that, in point of actual material, it contains twice as much matter as the old. Originally issued under the (alternative) title "A Study in Comparative Religion," the book now appears as "A Study in Magic and Religion." The change is important. In the present opinion of the author, magic held sway long before religion even came into being; formerly he was content to state that between these two things there existed a fundamental opposition.

The book was hailed, on its first appearance, as a very remarkable contribution to the study of comparative religion; ten years' study of the book has only deepened the original impression. In its new and enlarged shape the favourable opinion formed of the original work will be increased. Within certain fixed and definite limits, the book is perhaps unsurpassed. Merely as a storehouse of quaint fact or interesting legend, it is a *κρήνη ἐς ἀεί*, comparable with such a work as Tylor's "Primitive Culture," out-Germaning the Germans in erudition and thoroughness, and infinitely transcending their monographs in charm of presentation and fascination of style. Mr. Frazer writes not only with the instinct of a scholar, but with the eyes of a poet. Even in the Introduction to his commentary on such a writer as Pausanias, this double trait was noticeable; and we are sure no one could read the Preface of the present work—the very touching Preface as it is in parts—without being aware of the author's power of presentation and delicacy of expression.

"The Golden Bough" has for its central theme the strange story of the priesthood of Aricia. That priest Mr. Frazer explains as an embodiment of a tree-spirit; and the whole of Mr. Frazer's volumes are an indefinite application of this interpretation of an (apparently) prehistoric rite. But the book is vastly more, of course, than a disquisition on the cult of tree-spirits; indeed, Mr. Frazer has in his second edition elaborated some highly novel and exceedingly problematical views of the origins, not only of nature-religions, but of certain departments of the Christian religion. We cannot, however, but deeply regret his attempt to explain the "execution" of Jesus Christ by identifying the entire drama of the crucifixion with an elaborate festival play, in which a mock King

Dr. Burn has edited for the series of little books he is making so popular. The extracts reflect the work of the late Bishop as scholar, historian, and pastor. They embody many passages full of wisdom and insight which otherwise might not come within the range of the ordinary reader. Dr. Burn has executed his task with discernment, and his book should be as widely read as that which he has prepared from the writings of Archbishop Temple.

New Century Hymns for the Christian Year. By the Rev. F. W. ORDE WARD, B.A. London: Home Words Office. Pp. 224.

There is always room for another volume of good devotional verse, and "New Century Hymns" ought to find a welcome. Each step in the Christian year is dealt with, so that the book may be used for regular devotional reading. Mr. Ward writes with ease and fluency. His ideas are abundant, the imagery often striking, the language felicitous. He employs a very large variety of metrical forms, and seems to handle them all with equal facility. Like Keble, he knows how to convey exact doctrinal statements in verse without falling into technical prose. The book is very handsomely printed in red and black on good paper. As a gift-book it should be in demand, especially at such seasons as Lent and Easter.

Peggy, a Schoolgirl. By FRANCES STRATTON. London: Elliot Stock.

Parents, teachers, and others in want of a readable, sound story for children should welcome this book. Peggy, the heroine, is a lively, warm-hearted child with an element of naughtiness in her. She joins the Scripture Union, and then begins to see life in a new light. The change results in her going out to India with her father as a missionary. Children will find the story attractive, and should read it with profit.

Popular Studies in Mythology, Romance, and Folklore. No. 9, "The Rigveda." By E. V. ARNOLD, M.A. London: D. Nutt, 1900. Price 6d.

Brief as this booklet is, it contains much interesting matter—matter, too, on which reliance can be placed, inasmuch as we know that Professor Arnold has a complete mastery both of the literature of the Rigveda and of the Rigveda itself. The text of this popular study occupies 38 pages; then follow a valuable bibliography (pp. 39-42) and a series of notes (pp. 43-56). The entire performance is admirably done.

MINOR THEOLOGICAL WORKS.

Two Lectures on the Gospels. By F. C. BURKITT, M.A. Macmillan. 2s. 6d. net.

These two lectures were originally delivered in Cambridge last summer at the University Extension Summer Meeting. Mr. Burkitt writes with that ease and assurance which come of a thorough acquaintance with the subject, both in its general aspects and in its details. Mr. Burkitt sets himself to show (1) that Codex B is not, after all, as infallible as some of its admirers have thought; (2) that, in the case of the Synoptists, Mark contains the whole of the document used by Matthew and Luke independently. And Mark is, precisely, that document itself. The latter contention is, in the main, new; possibly it may ultimately be accepted as a true solution of the Synoptic problem. The former view is interesting, not merely from its inherent probability, but also because it marks the beginning of the revolt from the Westcott-Hort theory, a theory which at one time threatened to stifle individual judgment. That scholars, both at home and abroad, are now inclining largely towards the so-called

of the Jews was set up every year; and to show that it was "the fortunate character of His execution" which invested Jesus with the crown, "not merely of a martyr, but of a God." Mr. Frazer will not complain if his theory meets with indignant opposition in the interests, not only of Christian dogma, but of historic Christianity. The fact is, his bridge of nimble hypotheses, stretched lightly on the slender foundation of a few isolated facts and innumerable inferences, is too insecure to stand the weight that is put upon it.

Everywhere one must be careful to distinguish Mr. Frazer as the patient collector of facts and Mr. Frazer as the ingenious constructor of theories. But, when all is said and done, his book is a permanent contribution to folk-lore study, and, after all deductions are made, often throws welcome light on the intricate problem of certain religious origins.

Alfred the Great: a Sketch and Seven Studies. By WARWICK H. DRAPER, M.A. With a Preface by the Bishop of Hereford. London: Elliot Stock. Pp. 144.

The national commemoration of King Alfred is quite certain to create a demand for some clearly written book about the King and his work. Mr. Warwick Draper's volume should exactly meet that demand. It is just the kind of book for those who want to know with some accuracy the facts as to the King and the reasons for the eulogies which poets and historians have united in pouring upon him. Mr. Draper writes with the resources of learning at his command, but without parade of it, and without burdening his pages with superfluous erudition. His sketch of the great King's life is clear and interesting. The studies draw out in greater detail Alfred's services to his country as legislator, administrator, and man of letters, whilst discussing some aspects of his personal history. Churchmen will particularly note the references to Alfred's work for the Church and for the cause of education, whilst the archæologist will find each of the studies worth his attention. Some really excellent illustrations add to the interest of the volume. The Bishop of Hereford supplies the book with a commendatory Preface, and in no way exaggerates its usefulness.

The Life of Edward White Benson, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury. By his Son, A. C. BENSON. New edition, abridged. London: Macmillan and Co. Pp. 601.

The almost encyclopædic Life of the late Archbishop Benson is so full of personal interest and of material which every thoughtful Churchman should ponder that we cordially welcome an abridged edition. The original Life was beyond the means of many who would wish to possess it, and the abridged edition gives them the substance of the original volumes at a comparatively modest cost. The labour of abridgment has been done with discernment and skill. This volume will not supersede the original work, but it will enable many to buy for themselves an authorized memoir of the Archbishop, who must otherwise have known his Life only at second-hand. The illustrations are repeated, and the general get-up of the volume is in every way admirable.

Counsels for Churchpeople from the Writings of Mandell Creighton, D.D. Lord Bishop of London. Selected and arranged by J. H. BURN D.D. London: Elliot Stock. Pp. 202.

The masculine character of the late Bishop Creighton and his wide outlook give peculiar value to the selection from his works which

"Western" text is evident from Nestle's recent "Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament." It is unlikely that the reaction from B will prove excessive; the tendency in criticism is more and more towards a scientific weighing of all the available evidence. At the same time, Lehr's commandment to the philologists, "Thou shalt worship no manuscripts," is by no means unnecessary.

The Christian Use of the Psalms. By the Rev. T. K. CHEYNE, D.D. London: Isbister and Co.

This treatise discusses seriatim the use of the Proper Psalms in the Anglican Prayer-Book. The nature of Canon Cheyne's treatment we are all able to imagine. There is the usual learning, the usual picturesque style, and, we are compelled to add, rather more than the usual indifference to the deeply-cherished traditional opinions in this volume. It seems to us that in some of his later works—*e.g.*, "Jewish Religious Life after the Exile"—and the book before us Canon Cheyne has permitted himself to express more unreservedly than before a disregard for official views, not so much in the conclusions at which he arrives, but the manner in which they are stated. Discussion of difficulties is imperatively necessary; but a Canon of Rochester should perhaps make use of rather different phraseology from that which would readily be condoned in a less exalted personage. In other words, we think Canon Cheyne's treatment of his subject is occasionally unconsidered, and even flippant.

The Doctrine of the Lord's Supper. By the BISHOP OF WORCESTER. London: Elliot Stock.

Dr. Perowne presents the reformed view of the Sacrament with his wonted clearness and power. The pages of this book practically consist of a reprint of parts of his Primary Visitation Charge, and form a valuable addition to the literature of the subject. The learned Bishop points out that the doctrine he expounds is not the sole property of the Evangelical party in the Church, but is stated with the utmost force and clearness by great High Church divines. He also appeals for support to that wonderful book of Dr. Vogan's, "The True Doctrines of the Holy Eucharist," which up to the present is unanswered.

Our Prayer-Book. By H. C. G. MOULE, D.D. London: Seeley and Co.

These chapters on the Prayer-Book are not intended for students, nor to serve as helps for examination work. "The readers I have kept in view," says Dr. Moule, "are those who value and love their Prayer-Book, and care to know something about its history, and about the principles on which its makers acted, but who would not be able to give time to any extended study." We cannot but think that there are many such readers, and no publication is better adapted for such a purpose. History, explanation, and instruction are alike clear and informing. It would be a useful gift to Confirmation candidates.

The Crimson Letter Testament. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode.

This beautifully printed edition of the New Testament shows the whole of our Lord's words printed in red. We confess that, as a general principle, we are somewhat opposed to tampering with the plain narrative of Holy Writ. Such a procedure as underlining certain isolated texts, or marking them in red or in capitals, is open to manifest objections. There is no need to create a Gospel within a Gospel. Yet, if ever such special attention were permissible, it would be in the case of this edition. To have the sayings of our Lord Himself prominently marked is an idea that has occurred to many. Here it is done with great effect, and "The Crimson Letter Testament" will be rightly valued by very many people.