

more useful lives, that it will really conduce to our welfare. Show us this, so plainly that we cannot help seeing it." These, I believe, are the unuttered thoughts of thousands of weary souls to-day.

Why do we hear so many objections, not only to "doctrinal," but to "spiritual" sermons to-day? The first term is generally opposed to "practical," the second to "the real." Why is this? Simply, I believe, because the average preacher is not careful to translate the "doctrinal" into "the practical for the present necessity," and to show that the "spiritual" is of all the forces of life the strongest and the most real. Bishop Creighton has admirably performed both these tasks, and for this reason these sermons should be studied by all upon whom the same task has been laid.

W. EDWARD CHADWICK.

THE MONTH.

THE ecclesiastical interest of the month has centred in the Church Congress, which has been unusually successful. We must return to two or three of the chief discussions by which it was marked, as they will probably lead to further debate, and may be the starting-point of further action. The President's introductory address was full of historical interest, and brought out in a striking manner the historic claim of the Church of England upon the nation. Its effect at the moment was somewhat marred by its postponement to the reception of a deputation from the Nonconformists of Bristol. These gentlemen were not content with presenting an address of welcome, which was conceived in a Christian and courteous spirit, but must needs put forward one of their ministers to give an address to the Congress, which took the form of a kind of opening sermon, and almost usurped the place of the President's opening address. These courtesies between the Church and Nonconformists are very agreeable, and we hope they are useful. But when a Nonconformist address takes the place of the President's address, and postpones the opening of the Congress by a good half-hour, the true proportion of things seems to be somewhat inverted. We are much disposed to think that, for the future, the formal address alone should be received and replied to, and that all supplementary speeches should be suppressed. As the President said, if he had attempted to reply to Mr. Arnold Thomas a great part of the first meeting would have been consumed. Churchmen do not meet in the Church Congress in order to

listen to Nonconformists, however worthy of respect and attention they may be.

The discussion on variations in a National Church ought to bear good fruit. When, after papers by the Bishop of Exeter, the Dean of Canterbury, the Bishop of Worcester, and Bishop Barry, a man occupying the position of Prebendary Webb-Peploe could say with evident conviction that they seemed to him to contain the germs of mutual agreement, there would seem a fresh ray of light amidst our confusions. The points urged by these speakers will need very careful consideration, but there is at least some sign of a common basis, and we can only hope that further consideration of the views put forward will lead to a still better mutual understanding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CHURCHMAN."

SIR,

Mr. Chadwick's references to Dr. Chalmers in your last issue recall to the memory a most noteworthy incident in the history of social progress. In his "Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns," Dr. Chalmers details at length the methods he pursued in dealing with pauperism at Glasgow, and their success. I read the book some time ago, and wondered why we had ceased to hear of this striking experiment. On asking some of my Scotch friends the reason, I was told that it collapsed entirely as soon as the guiding hand of Chalmers was withdrawn. No more remarkable instance could be given of the fact that the best methods will fail if not directed by superior intelligence and informed by the spirit of Christ.

Yours faithfully,

J. J. LIAS.

Notices of Books.

Explorations in Bible Lands during the Nineteenth Century. By H. V. HILPRECHT, with the co-operation of Drs. BENZINGER, HOMMEL, JENSEN, and STEINDORFF. Illustrated with nearly 200 woodcuts and photogravures, and four maps. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1903. Price 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book, so long expected and eagerly waited for, has not disappointed our expectations. As a record of recent research in Assyria and Babylonia it is unrivalled; nor, as a brief résumé of the surveys and explorations carried out by C. J. Rich, Sir R. K. Porter, Layard, Rawlinson, George Smith, and Rassam, could it well be surpassed. But students will have