

Notices of Books.

The Nation's Need. Chapters on Education. Edited by SPENSER WILKINSON. Westminster: Archibald Constable and Co. Pp. 311. 6s.

DR. JOHNSON'S *dictum* that "education is as well known, and has long been as well known as it ever can be," sounds oddly in these days. The problem still remains unsolved, judging from appearances, and we have a multitude of counsellors. There is no healthier sign of our condition as a nation, Mr. Spenser Wilkinson tells us, than the general prevalence of a belief that our methods of education are defective and need to be improved. The reign of Queen Victoria witnessed a continuous series of improvements, and an increase of schools and colleges of all classes. Yet, in spite of the labours of three generations, the cry for further improvements waxes louder. The contributors to this volume are mostly experienced members of the teaching profession. Mr. Wilkinson takes for his own subject the education of officers in the army and navy, and several able writers deal with the various stages of our educational system, from the elementary school to the Universities. Articles on education in France and Germany, and the teaching of modern languages, are also included. One of the most informing chapters is that by Mr. P. J. Hartog on the regulations for the management of secondary schools in France. Some of the rules relating to the study of the French language and French literature might be adopted with advantage in this country in connection with the study of English, and in another respect "they do things better" across the Channel. Care is taken that assistant-masters shall not be overworked. They are encouraged by the Government to take up some special study, for which time is allowed, on the ground that their pupils profit by it, since—to quote the Ministerial circular—"teaching derives its chief value from the independent work of the teacher, which gives it fresh life, and saves it from lapsing into routine." The whole of Mr. Hartog's description of the system is well worth reading. Mr. J. C. Tarver, who writes on public schools, is strongly in favour of inspection by a central authority. One or two of the contributors appear to regard the average British boy as a *vile corpus* for numberless experiments; but the book is an interesting one, containing not a few sensible suggestions along with others of an impossible kind. We should like to see a volume of essays on education written from the parents' point of view. In such a work several matters unnoticed here would be brought to the front.

The Battle of Belief: A Review of the Present Aspects of the Conflict. By NEVISON LORAINÉ, Vicar of Grove Park West, London. With an Introduction by the Lord Bishop of London. Third Edition, revised and enlarged. London: S.P.C.K. Pp. 244.

The two previous editions of this work appeared twelve years ago. It has now undergone considerable enlargement, and is brought up to date. In its present form it will prove very serviceable for use in evidential

lectures, or for circulation among agnostics. Mr. Loraine confines himself to a few fundamental points: belief in a Personal God and Creator, miracles, and a future life. With the view of showing the concessions of even the most hostile opinion, as well as the divisions which exist among the different sects of unbelief, his plan is to let representative exponents of advanced thought speak for themselves. Extracts from their writings form the main substance of the chapters, and are connected together by a running comment. Many of the extracts happen to be taken from articles in the leading reviews and periodicals, and are thus particularly useful for reference purposes. Few volumes of the same size, if any, contain such a large collection of quotations from scientists of all shades of opinion. Not the least interesting portions of the book are the sections in which the author shows that doubt is as busy in the region of the facts of Nature as in the facts of religion. We would draw attention also to his criticisms of the late Mr. W. R. Greg's argument that a revelation attested by miracles could only be a revelation to the age in which it was made. Mr. Loraine takes a favourable view of the future, believing that recent researches in physical science have proved friendly to the fundamental facts of religious belief, while in the Christian Church, on the other hand, a more comprehensive spirit has arisen. The Bishop of London, in a commendatory note, speaks of the difficulties that are widely felt as due in a great measure to misunderstanding of the teaching of science. A really sympathetic effort to remove this misunderstanding is made here. We hope that the book will not be thought to be only suitable for working men, since it is equally adapted for doubters belonging to the educated classes. Its contents show it to be the outcome of extensive reading and much careful reflection.

Early Church Classics: The Shepherd of Hermas. By the Rev. C. TAYLOR, D.D., LL.D., Master of St. John's College, Cambridge. Vol. i. London: S.P.C.K. Pp. 166.

Its inclusion in the series of "Early Church Classics" will help to make the "Shepherd" better known among English readers. The portion of the translation contained in the present volume embraces the visions and the mandates, and there are numerous explanatory notes. An introduction of fifty pages is prefixed, in the course of which the editor works out an idea suggested by Dr. Cotterill that one of the main sources used by Hermas was the *Tablet of Cebes*. He goes so far as to say that "a careful comparison of the two writings seems to show that the comparatively lengthy work of Hermas is in part a Christian version" of the other. If Hermas took as his model the philosophical piece attributed to Cebes, which is an exceedingly dull production of uncertain date, his own performance was a great improvement upon it. But the resemblance of form may possibly be accidental, and the parallels adduced are somewhat forced. We venture to differ from Dr. Taylor's view that "the Church sits at first upon a tripod chair that she may look the more like the heathen prophetess, the Sibyl, for whom Hermas is to mistake her." Her age and the book in her hands were surely the reasons for his guess.

The "great white chair of snowy wool" described in the allegory could not have looked like a tripod, neither was a tripod one of the conventional accessories of the Sibyl. As regards the chair of the false prophet, there is nothing in the text to connect it with a tripod. The notion is rather that of a sophist's chair, recalling Juvenal's "Pœnituit multos vanæ sterilisque cathedræ." Dr. Taylor is of opinion that the case of the unfaithful wife in M. iv. 1 was suggested to Hermas by the pericope in St. John (vii. 53 to viii. 11), but the points of correspondence are far from obvious. It would seem more probable that the questions discussed in that part of the "Shepherd" had begun to be of pressing importance, owing to the growth of the Church and a decline from the primitive standard of life and practice. Divisions as to the treatment of post-baptismal sins had sprung up, and we can hardly doubt that they went on simmering for some years before the Montanist controversy broke out. If the "Shepherd" was not actually written for a controversial purpose, it was, at all events, made use of in that way; and there are reasons for thinking that Hermas wrote with a serious object in reference to the question of the day instead of designing a fanciful allegory in imitation of Cebes. His work was evidently appealed to in Tertullian's time as an authority by the anti-Montanists. We wish that Dr. Taylor had discussed its relation to the history of the period in his Introduction, and that he had drawn attention to the parallels in the "Passion of S. Perpetua" pointed out by the Dean of Westminster. The Dean's notes upon them are deeply interesting. On p. 150 of this volume an error of the press, which destroys the meaning, requires correction: "It speaketh not all" being a misprint for "it speaketh not at all."

Manuals of the New Testament. Vol. III. First Days and Early Letters of the Church. By the Rev. T. H. STOKOE, D.D., Rector of Waddington, Lincoln. Oxford: The Clarendon Press.

The publication of this volume completes the late Dr. Stokoe's very useful series of New Testament manuals. His first volume comprised the four Gospels; the second had for its subject the "Life and Letters of St. Paul," embracing Acts ix., xiii.-xxviii., and (excluding that to the Hebrews) the Pauline Epistles. The remaining portions of the Acts and the other Epistles are dealt with here. In the text an analysis of each chapter is given, with exegetical and grammatical notes at the foot of the page. Both the paraphrase and the annotations are thoroughly well done, the former being so arranged that it may be read continuously, thus presenting a connected view of the argument. Though the book does not take the form of a commentary, it serves the purpose of one, and may be recommended to those who are unable to purchase more expensive works. A short appendix on the Revelation of St. John is added. Dr. Stokoe abstains from attempting a detailed exposition of it, and contents himself with putting together a few serviceable notes on its date and general character. These Manuals are a worthy conclusion to the work of valuable life.



Erratum.—In the CHURCHMAN for November, page 80, line 3: For *South by West*, read *East by South*.