

concert-rooms and halls, but meanwhile they must be carried out in strict accordance with the general and ordinary purposes of worship for which our cathedrals are devoted, "without money and without price."

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—The current volume of **THE CHURCHMAN** will close with the December number, in order that each volume may in future commence in January.

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## Notices of Books.

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*The Myths of Plato.* Translated, with Introductions and Notes, by J. A. STEWART, M.A., White's Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Oxford. London: Macmillan and Co., 1905.

The object of this volume, the author tells us, is to furnish the reader with material for estimating the characteristics and influence of Plato the prophet, as distinguished from Plato the dialectician. The "Myths" have, with this object, been detached from the dialogues where they occur, and discussed both separately and in their various inter-connections. The Greek text is printed opposite the English translation, that the student may be able readily to refer to the original; and the whole book is prefaced with an introductory essay, in which the author treats first of the Platonic drama, then generally of *μυθολογία*, or story-telling; next of Plato's myths, and the effect produced in us by the Platonic *μῦθος* (which Dr. Stewart compares to that produced in the reader by poetry—viz., the overshadowing presence of "that which was, and is, and ever shall be"). We are next introduced to a psychological disquisition on the nature of "Transcendental Feeling"; and this is followed by a dual treatment of the Platonic idea of God and idea of the soul. The introduction ends with a summary, in which Plato is defended against the criticisms of Kant; and this is rounded off by a careful division of the "Platonic Myths" into three main categories.

Very rarely have we come across a book which, whether from the artistic, or the psychological, or the philosophical point of view, seems so full of important matter. It is essentially a book that demands thought, and will repay thoughtful consideration. It is not altogether easy reading, inasmuch as the questions raised in the course of its carefully-knit argument involve some of the most difficult problems that can confront the psychologist. But there is abundance of material brought together on which to base a judgment; and Professor Stewart appears to have neglected no source of illustration likely to prove fruitful in elucidating his argument. A fine example of his insight may be instanced in his observations on the Phædrus myth (pp. 387 *et seq.*),

where the nature of poetry is discussed with a fulness and an insight into its "inwardness" that we never remember to have seen equalled. Professor Stewart's reading has been enormously wide, as we have already implied; and he has done much more than produce merely a scholar's book, inasmuch as he appears to have caught, in some happy instinctive fashion, the *spirit* of the poet, and in consequence enables his readers to appreciate, in a clear and orderly way, the poetry that underlies the Platonic *mýthos* in its many variations. True, there is a great deal of repetition in the course of the extended argument; but this seems to us rather a merit than the reverse—*Bis repetita docent*.

As regards the translation, we venture to regard this as, perhaps, less satisfactory than the commentary; it lacks the beauty and clearness, as well as the spontaneity, of Jowett's version. Still, it is a very good version indeed, despite the fact that, in one or two cases, the sense seems to have been missed. The text followed is somewhat antiquated, and we should have preferred a more independent recension.

Many years ago, in a paper contributed to the *Contemporary Review*, the late Bishop Westcott gave much valuable help towards a right appreciation of the Platonic myths; and that paper was reprinted in the volume of collected essays entitled "Religious Thought in the West." The Bishop, after having pointed out in how many directions Plato was an unconscious prophet of the Gospel, summed up as follows: "The life of Christ is, in form no less than in substance, the Divine reality, of which the myths were an instructive foreshadowing." It is in his character as an unconscious prophet that Plato will ever appeal to Christian readers; and it is (in the main) this aspect of the great Athenian that Professor Stewart illuminates in the course of his instructive and valuable work—a work which, if we mistake not, every student of Christian doctrine, as well as the purely philosophical reader, would do wisely to ponder.

*Collected Sonnets of Lloyd Mifflin.* Revised by the AUTHOR. London: Henry Frowde. Price 10s. 6d. net.

In this volume of three hundred and fifty sonnets on divers subjects, Mr. Lloyd Mifflin shows a nice understanding of a form of verse seldom handled with success, and reaches, indeed, a high standard of excellence. Not only does he realize and set forth in two charming poems the theoretical requirements of the sonnet—its "veiled music," its "soft antiphonies of recurrent rhyme," the gradual unfolding of the theme through the "due reserve" of the octave to the "gathering glories" of the sestet—but he has the skill to use his theories; and to the admirable finish of his workmanship is due much of the charm that many of these poems undoubtedly possess.

Although he does not strike the forceful, decisive note of the greater sonnet-writers, his verse is nearly always beautiful in melody, and filled with tender feeling and fancy. Take, as an instance, the sestet from one of the best of the sonnets collected in this volume, "Lost Isles":

“O lips of those that loved us, lightly pressed,  
 Where are you now, since life is growing gray?  
 Hands laid in ours; dear faces once caressed  
 And left for ever; and some tender breast  
 Where we were anchored, by sweet Love, a day—  
 Lost Isles are these from which we sailed away.”

Perhaps the chief blemish on the poems is an occasional straining after the unusual, the fantastic even, in wording and imagery. Such coinages as “ebullient,” “transilient,” “ignipotent,” are surely unnecessary, and add but little to the music of the verses in which they occur. The metaphor in the lines,

“. . . The brook transilient plays  
 With muffled plectrum on her harp of stones,”

is not convincing; it “muffles” the image in the mind, instead of making it more vivid.

Mr. Lloyd Mifflin’s best work is to be found in his Nature sonnets. Whether the scene is laid in Cornwall, in Greece, or in his native country, he paints it for us with a restrained grace, which marks him as a true artist. But on reading a book of poems by an American writer, one rather expects to find something distinctive, “some strangeness in the proportion,” some lines of which it may be thought—an English poet could not have written thus. It is seldom so with the volume before us, and one cannot help a slight feeling of disappointment. The notes are, we think, for the most part unnecessary.

*Expositions of Holy Scripture: St. Matt. i.-viii.* By ALEXANDER MACLAREN, D.D. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 7s. 6d.

Another volume of Dr. Maclaren’s *magnum opus*. To readers of the American *Sunday School Times*, the *Christian Commonwealth*, and the *Baptist Times*, most of these pages will be already familiar; but it is a great convenience and satisfaction to have the sermons and expositions in this permanent form. In the volume before us we have characteristic illustrations of Dr. Maclaren’s twofold power—first, as an expositor dealing with large sections of Scripture; and, second, in his marvellous homiletic insight into separate texts. He is absolutely without a peer in the world of preaching, and we question whether the Church of Christ has ever had a preacher who combines such a remarkable fulness and variety of special gifts. To all ministers we can only say again what we have said concerning previous volumes—that those who will make Dr. Maclaren their model and guide will find their ministry greatly enriched and deepened; while to all Christian readers who desire instruction and help in Bible study and meditation, Dr. Maclaren will provide just the intellectual stimulus and spiritual suggestion they need.

*The Psalms: their Spiritual Teaching.* By Rev. J. ELDER CUMMING, D.D. Vol. i., Ps. i.-xli. London: Religious Tract Society. Price 2s.

We give a hearty welcome to this first instalment of what promises to be an admirable and helpful devotional commentary on the Psalms. As

the author truly says in his preface, apart from Spurgeon's great Commentary, "there is not a devotional commentary on evangelical lines." Dr. Elder Cumming's work will, if we mistake not, go far to fill this gap. Two introductory chapters on "The Spiritual Teaching of the Psalms" and "The Arrangement of the Psalms" bear clear marks of wide reading as well as independent thinking and spiritual experience. The text of each Psalm follows together with brief comments. The latter are terse, spiritual, suggestive, and often very informing. We trust the venerable author will soon be enabled to complete his task, and give us the remainder of the Psalms treated in this helpful, devotional way. The Religious Tract Society are to be congratulated on the choice of the author for this portion of their commentary, and on the use he has made of the opportunity. We are especially thankful to note the clear testimony to the Messianic character of several Psalms included in this volume.

*The Children's Book of Old Testament Story.* By Mrs. C. D. FRANCIS. London: Bemrose and Sons, Ltd. Price 3s. net.

This is intended to be read by, or to, children from the ages of eight to thirteen. The main points of the Old Testament history are intelligently covered, and the historical part is distinctly well done, the stories being told in a clear and easy style. The doctrinal teaching, however, is very different from what we have been accustomed to expect in books issued by this house. The High Church tone is very pronounced and objectionable.

*Henry the Fifth.* Edited by E. K. CHAMBERS. The Red Letter Shakespeare.

*A Sixteenth Century Anthology.* Edited by ARTHUR SYMONS. The Red Letter Library.

We have already called attention to other volumes in this very delightful series, so dainty to handle, so easy to read, so attractive in appearance. Those who already possess former volumes will doubtless take care to obtain these.

*The Forgotten Truth.* By Rev. CHARLES BULLOCK. London: Home Words Publishing Office. Price: Cloth 1s.; paper (abridged) 2d.

We gladly call attention to these new editions of a little book on a perennially important subject, the need of the fulness of spiritual power in the Church. The hymns of the Holy Ghost included are drawn from various sources, and comprise some poems of great spiritual beauty and force which are not generally known as they should be.

*Church or Sect.* By Rev. A. COOPER-MARSDIN. London: Elliot Stock. Price 1s. 6d. net.

A number of lectures by a very pronounced Anglican, discussing such questions as, "Why am I a Churchman?" "Why am I not a Dissenter?" "What is a High, a Low, a Broad Churchman?" The spirit of the book may be gauged from the first page, in which we are told that "the word 'Protestant' is quite modern and it is also un-English; it was made in

Germany." We have seldom seen so many inaccuracies and baseless assertions in so small a space. It is astonishing that at this time of day a clergyman in the Church of England can be found to believe and teach as historic facts the many imaginative and grossly erroneous statements of this book. We only hope the congregation was far too intelligent to be deceived by all this error.

*The Athanasian Creed.* By Rev. A. COOPER-MARSDEN. London: Elliot Stock. Price 6d. net.

A pamphlet consisting of two chapters, one giving opinions for and against the public use of the Creed, and the other giving a simple explanation of its clauses. While it contains nothing particularly striking, it is a useful little contribution to the discussion of the subject.

*The Years of Our Lord.* By Rev. F. HARPER. London: James Nisbet and Co., Ltd. Price 6s. net.

The author is well known through his former little volumes of Village Sermons, and here he provides a larger volume, evidently of sermons, consisting of meditations for every Sunday and Holy Day of the Christian year. The chapters are marked by all Mr. Harper's earnest spirituality, deep devotion, and constant loyalty to the old Evangelical paths. There are not a few poetic quotations. This is just the book for a gift to those who will appreciate spiritual food.

*Religious Teaching at Home.* By L. H. M. SOULSBY. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. Price 4d. net.

This little pamphlet contains much that is helpful and suggestive, but needs to be read with discrimination. The author recommends books by all kinds of writers, more particularly those of the extreme Anglican and Higher Critical Schools. The list of devotional books curiously and surprisingly does not contain a single one of the Bishop of Durham's works, or of any other Evangelical Churchman. This may serve to show the unwisdom of too closely following the author's advice.

*The Epistle to the Philippians.* A Devotional Commentary. By Rev. F. B. MEYER. London: The Religious Tract Society. Price 2s.

This is the second volume in the new series recently started. It consists of twenty-seven chapters, covering the whole of the Epistle, and reveals a helpful combination of true exegesis and fine spirituality. Mr. Meyer never forgets the devotional and practical purpose of the book, and the result is that we have in it food for the soul and inspiration for the life. The work is marked by all the author's poetic style, happy illustration, and earnest purpose, and no one could take this volume in hand and use it without being informed and braced up for the journey of life.

*Seven Sermons on 1 Cor. xiii.* By EDWARD DOVETON. London: Passmore and Alabaster. Price 6d.

Full of solid, sound, scriptural, spiritual teaching. The congregation to whom these sermons were addressed is evidently able to digest solid food.

*Castle Omeragh.* By F. FRANKFORT MOORE. London: Archibald Constable. Price 2s. 6d.

Messrs. Constable are doing well to increase the volumes of their half a crown library. The writer's name is a sufficient guarantee of interest and thrill. It is an Irish tale of Cromwell's day. The hero of the story, Walter Fawcett, is a much-needed type of manhood. Distinctly religious and deeply affectionate, his loyalty to his brother seems almost grotesque in the light of his attitude to the woman he passionately loves. The *nil admirari* type of present-day youth would do well to study and reproduce his strength of character. The book is crowded with incident and adventure and holds our interest all the way.

*Thoughts and Prayers.* By the Right Rev. Hon. A. ANSON, D.D. London: S.P.C.K. Price 3d.

Worth the perusal of candidates for Holy Orders, and specially of those for whom ways and means are not clear. For the latter the booklet is specially intended.

*Short Prayers and Counsels for Soldiers.* By the late A. W. MILROY. London: S.P.C.K. Price 2d.

Some of the best hymns, best sayings, and best prayers are here combined with heart-searching passages from the Word of God. The booklet takes up next to no room in the pocket, and is compiled by one who knows soldiers.

*Tennyson's Poetical Works.* London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. Cloth, price 1s. 6d. net.

This handy and attractive little edition in bijou size will doubtless find great favour. The type is remarkably clear and good, and, though the paper is thin, the leaves are not difficult to turn over. Lovers of Tennyson will welcome this neat and novel edition.

*Boy's Own Annual. Girl's Own Annual.* London: 4, Bouverie Street, E.C. Price 7s. 6d.

These splendid annual volumes of two very familiar and welcome weekly papers are again full of good things, both in letterpress and illustrations. Their varied and attractive features are well maintained. They will make handsome presents and give untold pleasure to the receivers.

*Bethlehem to Olivet.* London: Hodder and Stoughton. Part I. Price 1s. net.

The first part of a series of pictures by modern painters from the life of Christ. The text is by the well-known devotional writer, Dr. J. R. Miller, and the whole work is edited by Mr. W. Shaw Sparrow. The object of the book is to show by means of thirty pictures "how Christianity in art is renewed for us by modern painters." Judging by this first part, which consists of five plates, the entire work will prove a beautiful and inspiring addition to the various reproductions that are so frequent just now. Six parts will complete the work. The plates are exquisitely produced.

*Parental Honesty.* By SYLVANUS STALL. *The Bloom of Girlhood.* By PAULINE PAGE. *The Daughter's Danger.* By EMMA F. A. DRAKE. London: Vir Publishing Co. Price 1s. each, net.

Three small books dealing with certain aspects of the purity question, addressed respectively to parents, girls, and young women. Like other works issued from this house, they can be thoroughly depended upon for the wise yet frank way in which the teaching is given. We commend them to the attention of all who have the responsibility of influencing and training the young.

### PAMPHLETS.

*The Confessional.* By Rev. FREDERICK MEYRICK, Prebendary of Lincoln. London: Bemrose and Sons, Ltd. Price 6d. (Reprinted from *Church and Faith*. An admirable and convincing statement of the truth on this important subject.)

*The Resurrection of Our Lord.* By Rev. W. JEFFERYS HILLS. S.P.C.K. (An examination into the credibility of the evidence. Very clear and cogent, and suitable for distribution.)

*The Impropriation of Tithes.* By EDWARD S. NORRIS. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 6d. (A proposal to "purchase the whole tithe from the impropiators, and red devote it to the services of the Church, the clergy, and the poor." The arguments by which this contention is supported are well worth the consideration of thoughtful Churchmen.)

*Are we to seek the Living amongst the Dead? Are the Holy Dead in Paradise, or can Death really be Life?* By Lieutenant-Colonel V. F. ROWE, R.E. London: Digby, Long and Co.; Malvern: Link Printing and Binding Works. Price 1d. each. (Advocating the theory that at death the soul remains unconscious until the Resurrection. By no means convincing.)

*Events in the Life of Nelson* (founded mainly on Southey's "Life of Nelson"). S.P.C.K. Price 1d. (A capital summary. Should be circulated widely during this centenary month.)

*The Sisters of the People, and their Work.* By DOROTHEA PRICE HUGHES. London: Horace Marshall and Son. Price 6d. (The annual report of the work done by the Sisters of the West London Wesleyan Mission. Full of the deepest interest.)

### RECEIVED.

*Blackwood's Magazine, The Leisure Hour, Our Little Dots, The Child's Companion, Church Missionary Intelligencer, Church Missionary Gleaner, Awake, The Round World, India's Witness, Canadian Churchman, India's Women and China's Daughters, The Bible in the World, Bible Society Gleanings, The Cottager and Artisan, Church and People, South American Missionary Magazine, The Sunday at Home, Protestant Observer, Church of England League Gazette, Open Doors, Grievances from Ireland* (No. 9), *The Church Standard* (N.P.C.U.).