NOTICES OF BOOKS

Notices of Books.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.


FOUR theological essays are included in this book. The first, which gives it its title, "The Gift of Tongues," discusses the relation of Acts ii. and 1 Cor. xiv., and comes to the conclusion that there is no real discrepancy between them. The second essay treats of "The Legal Terminology in the Epistle to the Galatians," and is a full and detailed statement of the rival theories of Halmel and Ramsay as to which form of legal terminology is to be understood in the Epistle, Greek or Roman. The third essay is on the subject of "St. Paul's Visits to Jerusalem, as recorded in the Acts and in the Epistle to the Galatians," and renews the controversy initiated by Professor Ramsay in his now well-known book as to whether the visit of St. Paul to Jerusalem in Gal. ii. is to be identified with that recorded in Acts xv. In this essay Dr. Walker favours Lightfoot, as against Ramsay; but, at the same time, he adopts the view favoured by Dr. Bartlet that the meeting of Peter and Paul at Antioch was prior to the Jerusalem Council. If this were proved it would solve a very difficult problem. The last essay is an able plea for the early date of the third Gospel—A.D. 64 instead of A.D. 80. It will be seen from this brief description that these essays deal with current and important theological questions. They are models of patient, accurate exegesis, competent scholarship, and balanced statement. To all serious students of the particular topics this volume will be indispensable. To theological students and ministers in particular, it will provide a model for the treatment of exegetical problems. If we mistake not, this is Dr. Dawson Walker's first book, and we confidently anticipate that it will not be his last. The man who can contribute such valuable essays as these is capable of more work of the same kind, and we hope he will soon make us still further his debtor.


The burden of this book is that the working classes are not opposed to Christ and Christianity, but only to the Churches, which, it is alleged, are intended for the middle and upper classes to the virtual exclusion of working people. As a consequence, much is said here about sympathy with democracy and social questions if the working classes are to be won. There are eleven articles from such representative men as Mr. W. Crooks, M.P., Canon Barnett, Mr. Bramwell Booth, Dr. R. F. Horton, and the Dean of Durham. We are surprised to find no representative of Evangelical Churchmanship included, for Mr. Watts-Ditchfield of Bethnal Green, or Mr. Lewis of Bermondsey, could have supplied much of what this book most lacks. By far the best and most powerful article is that by Mr. Bramwell Booth, in which he shows the best way of getting hold of the working classes. The
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rest of the book has very little to say about the one supreme factor in the question, the problem of human sin with its resulting alienation from God. By all means let us have the fullest possible sympathy with the working classes, their social needs and difficulties; by all means let us do everything we can to break down barriers between class and class; by all means let us make it possible and easy for working people to join the Church, and also impossible for them to believe that the Church is for the middle and upper classes only. But when we have done this and much more, there still remains the fact that in a vast number of cases the explanation of the absence of the working classes is that they "will not come" because of sin. It is only the preaching and exemplification of a living, loving Saviour that will draw men to Christ and the Church, and wherever this is done many difficulties are removed and very few problems remain to be solved. We were amused to find a reference in the Editor's article to ecclesiasticism as the cause of the trouble, and yet the last article in this book is by Father Adderley, who advocates the very system the Editor denounces. Mr. Adderley gives an ideal which is a very unreal picture of the High Church system, and his article is itself a proof that working people would never accept it. We confess that we are becoming somewhat tired of references to Father Dolling as a great authority, and to his work as a great success among the poor of East London. Those who know the facts know that this was not by any means the case, and it seems necessary to say so plainly. It is a simple fact that there is not a single strong ritualistic church in the whole of the poorest parts of South London. The strongest and most vigorous churches are manned by evangelical and moderate Churchmen, and there are evangelical men in East London doing infinitely more than extreme Churchmen to win and keep men for Christ and the Church. If the Daily News' census taught us one thing more than another, it was the uselessness of ceremonial to attract men and the power of the preaching of a living Christ to do it. The book before us will render good service if it stirs men to face this question; but except in two or three articles it affords no real solution of the problem, because, these apart, it has no real message of what Christianity is, and is intended to do, for the working classes.


These two volumes complete the issue of the first series of Dr. Maclaren's great work, and we are not at all surprised to hear of the success that has attended their publication. We hope it means that clergy and ministers are intending to make Dr. Maclaren their model, for assuredly they could not do better for themselves or for their congregations. Whether we look at his exegesis, or dwell upon his spiritual application, or consider the literary setting of the sermons, we are impressed with the spirituality, clearness, force, and beauty of the discourses. Whether we consider the matter or the manner, we are interested, charmed, and helped. We can only once again give this work our heartiest commendation, and urge our readers to make themselves acquainted with its treasures.
This book is dated "Eton, 1905." It will be gratifying to those who are concerned about religious education amongst our wealthy classes to observe that the headmaster of England's greatest public school should at the outset of his career in his new office issue a volume of this character and on such a subject. He has studied St. Matthew v., vi., and vii. in a learned, original, and independent manner. This book is the result. It is not a popular exposition, but contains upwards of thirty separate studies, preceded by an introduction in which the effect of the Sermon on the Mount on Christians generally is discussed, and reasons suggested for the power with which a set of principles which are not of this world take hold of our souls. Mr. Lyttelton enters on the difficult task of "tracing the main thread of connection which runs through the Sermon." More than once he writes of "one prevailing characteristic," that the "precepts are based on a certain view that we are the children of a heavenly Father, who cares for us and guides our lives." His declaration of the fundamental thought of the Sermon being "its heavenly-mindedness, its unvarying appeal to man's consciousness of a Father who cares for us," "a homage triumphantly extorted from mankind by words which thrill with a recognition of a Father who cares for and guides His children," is certainly one which will commend itself to those who appreciate the primary elements in the theology of Ritschlianism. It were all the better, perhaps we may be allowed to say, when this spontaneous homage is rendered side by side with, and not apart from, trust in a "Personal God" and "the winning appeal of the Cross of Christ," side by side with (in the last words of the book) "personal trust in Christ." It is decidedly interesting to follow Mr. Lyttelton in discussing "why men ignore the precepts whilst they admire the discourse," which he compares to a Tory of the Tories imbibing, admiring, and teaching his children the contents of a Radical pamphlet. He proclaims that "mental indolence is the severest foe to its understanding"; that we are "not saved the trouble of thinking, but powerfully stimulated to think"; that the Sermon is profoundly disappointing to the man who wants a cut-and-dried vade mecum for daily conduct, or to solve the perplexities of modern social life. So Mr. Lyttelton endeavours "to get hold of the meaning of the words," "quoting as little as possible from other writers" (he might have said not at all), in "a book not intended to be taken up and read through, but to be consulted." This book is certainly to be recommended to the student, nor to him alone. The chapter headed "The Believers at Prayer" contains these sane words: "We need not go beyond our own religious communion to find 'repetition apart from the mind.' And what are we to say of the very common practice of inaudible reading in Church, or of reading which is so mannered as wholly to disguise the meaning of the words? Bad reading is a peculiarly English fault, and to it may be attributed some of the distaste for public worship which prevails among educated people." The reading of this book gives fresh and special point to the familiar wish, "Floreat Etona!"
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This is a timely book and strikes a timely note. It is far too often forgotten that criticism of the Bible must include spiritual perception and experience to be productive of any true results. Dr. Pierson presses this point home in a variety of ways, and emphasizes the need of spiritual faculties and spiritual methods, besides calling attention to the spiritual organism, structure, progress, symmetry, verities, and types of the Word of God. We do not follow him in all his applications and expositions, but he is invariably suggestive and not seldom impressive and convincing. No Bible student can read this book without learning some of the secrets of true Biblical criticism.


A selection of papers reprinted from the Tablet dealing with certain events of the last fifteen years. It would hardly have seemed necessary to most of us to rescue these ephemeral papers, but the author thinks that the principles for which he contends can best be understood in the light of concrete facts, even though belated. The aspects of Anglicanism are almost all concerned with the extreme type of present-day Anglicanism, and, in opposition to these, it must be admitted that Mgr. Moyes makes out a good case for his position. He is able to see what extreme Anglicans are apparently unable to realize, that their position in the Church of England, and in opposition to Rome, is historically and logically untenable. This was never more clearly shown than in the recent publication of Bishop Gore’s “Roman Catholic Claims,” with the reply by Dom Chapman. As a consequence, Mgr. Moyes’ shafts, while deadly against Ritualism, are perfectly harmless against the position of the Church of England as laid down at the Reformation. We could hope that this fact might open the eyes of Lord Halifax and his party to the impossible position they are attempting to maintain. To the loyal sons of the Reformation this book will come as a strong confirmation of the proof of their position, and a fresh confirmation of the absolute powerlessness of Rome against a Christianity and a Churchmanship which are based upon the cardinal principles of the supremacy of the Word of God and justification through faith in Christ. The characteristic special pleading of Rome on historical subjects is very much in evidence in some of these articles.

ANCIENT HEBREW NAMES. By Letitia D. Jeffreys. London: James Nisbet and Co., Ltd. Price 2s. 6d. net.

The interest and significance of Old Testament names are becoming more and more appreciated, and it is evident that they have a direct and important bearing on certain questions of modern criticism. Mrs. Jeffreys provides the student with no little useful and valuable information and guidance. While there may be difference of opinion as to the precise interpretations the authoress puts on these names, she has done well to lay stress on their spiritual signification. Professor Sayce contributes a brief but interesting preface.
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THE HEBREW PROPHET. By Loring W. Batten, Ph.D., S.T.D. London: Methuen and Co. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This book represents what the author would regard as a conservative attempt to discuss Hebrew prophecy from the standpoint of modern criticism, and the frank acceptance of the evolutionary theory of the Israelitish religion. We cannot say that the result is successful or even satisfactory. There is a too manifest attempt to accept as proved what is still a matter of conjecture, and it is obvious that results based on such a doubtful foundation cannot be satisfying and final. Dr. Batten, like most writers of this school, has very little to say about the predictive element in Old Testament prophecy, and yet there is no element more prominent in the prophetic books. The chief difficulty, however, is a far more significant one in the utter absence of any treatment of Messianic prophecy. The author tells us that Messianic prophecy "does not occupy the place it once did in Christian thought, because we have not yet adjusted ourselves fully to the new life." And so we have a scholarly book of 350 pages without a discussion of that which is the unique feature of Old Testament prophecy. Could the modern view be more clearly condemned than by this simple but significant fact? Dr. Batten must know that the argument from prophecy still holds its place among the evidences of Christianity. He will not allow that any of the theophanies represent historic fact, and it is therefore not surprising that his conclusions are very different from those held by men who continue to believe that the Old Testament means what it says. On the purely ethical questions the author has much to say that is useful, scholarly, and able; but the book, as a whole, is sadly to seek as an exposition of Old Testament prophecy.

CONVERSATIONS WITH CHRIST. By the Author of "The Faith of a Christian." London: Macmillan and Co. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This portraiture of the Christ of the Gospels in relation to all sorts and conditions of men is suggestive and reverent. Among many studies, those of the Ritualist, Rationalist, and Positivist find a place. The studies are not always equal in value, but they are nearly always pointed. The writer possesses great power of antithesis; in fact, he needs to exercise restraint. His introductions are sometimes out of proportion to his main theme. At the same time, he brings us face to face with the Christ of history, and applies the various interviews with Him to eminently practical ends.

MAN'S SPIRITUAL ENEMIES. By the Rev. F. D. Bruce, M.A., LL.M. London: A. H. Stockwell. Price 2s. 6d. net.

In these days of abstractions a book like this will prove serviceable. We may fail incidentally to hold the author's view of our Lord's temptations, and certainly we shall fail to confuse the passage in St. James v. 14 with the Romanist doctrine of extreme unction, but with his main argument we are in cordial agreement. Basing his contention on thought-transference, he sets out to show the influence of spirits on man. He shows they play upon his spirit as upon an instrument, and by suggestion lead him right or wrong. Perhaps it had been wiser to have laid a stronger emphasis on man's co-operation with good or evil by freewill. He rightly denounces modern spiritualism, and thinks hypnotism highly dangerous morally. There is no
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subtler danger in the present day than that of accounting the Evil One and his following impersonal. This book certainly teaches us not to under-rate the enemy.


This is a very unsatisfactory book. The author had a fine theme—the use of Old Testament prophecy by our Lord and His attitude towards it; but the discussion is often impaired and not seldom spoilt by the free and really impossible handling of his material. Not the least serious feature is the separation of the words of Jesus Himself from the rest of the New Testament, and the frequent pitting of our Lord's teaching against that of the Evangelists and Apostles. The result is to make the New Testament almost valueless from an historical and spiritual standpoint. The tone of superiority towards the Evangelists is very trying, and we are also informed that our Lord's conception of the Messiah was not taken from descriptions found in prophecy (p. 197); further, that "the real fulfilment was the Jewish Church... which finally gave us Christ and Christianity" (p. 195).
Another indication of the author's point of view is seen in his statement that our Lord had not the full consciousness of His Messiahship for the first few months of His ministry. While here and there suggestive notes and comments on particular passages may be found, the book as a whole, and in the light of its purpose, is not only unsatisfactory, but even positively objectionable to those who have any real belief in the fact of the Divine inspiration of the New Testament.

GENERAL.

RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS. By H. Hensley Henson, D.D. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. Price 2s. 6d. net.

These addresses are prefaced by a letter on the Education Bill, which it favours as providing, in the judgment of the author, an equitable basis for the solution of the present controversy. Whatever view we may take on the subject of religious education in elementary schools, Canon Henson's book is a serious, weighty, and valuable contribution, and we hope it will have the effect it deserves. It is marked by all the author's clearness of thought, forcefulness of utterance, and earnestness of purpose.


A collection of studies in clerical life and character repeated from the Standard and the Manchester Guardian, consisting of a number of what the author calls Colloquies and Profiles. Mr. Rees wields a bright, forceful, and happy pen. He has a keen insight into character both on its weak and strong sides, and a genuine sense of humour for clerical weaknesses whether personal or family. His pictures are evidently drawn from life; and while nought is set down in malice, the truth is plainly yet kindly told. The volume will enable many a clergyman, and not a few clergymen's wives, to see themselves as others see them, and in this respect the book will fulfil a useful mission.

This book admirably fulfils its title. Its thoroughness and completeness leave little to be desired. There are sections dealing with the vocal mechanism, enunciation, adaptation of the voice to thought and sentiment, the liturgical use of the voice, and the public reading of Holy Scripture. Many examples are given and much useful guidance about reading the Services and preaching. We could wish that every candidate for Holy Orders possessed this book, though we fear its price will be prohibitive in many cases. Those who use it and follow out its counsels will find their reading and speaking greatly improved. It would make an admirable present from some well-to-do laity to the clergy of their parish. Although it comes from America, and occasionally the hints have reference to American pronunciation and the American Prayer-Book, these occurrences are very rare and comparatively unimportant. The book can be used with ease and profit by all, and we heartily recommend it.


It is impossible to do more than call attention to this remarkable compilation of facts and figures concerning the Church. It must suffice to say that in its 700 large octavo pages almost every conceivable form of information is given about the men, institutions, and finance. This book constitutes one of the greatest evidences of the life and vigour of the Church of England, and the S.P.C.K. deserves the cordial and grateful thanks of all Churchmen for making such a publication possible.


These three recent numbers maintain the high standard already set both in letterpress and photographs. They form an admirable guide to our English cathedrals. When bound together in a volume this portfolio will prove especially welcome and attractive.

BIOGRAPHICAL.


An account of the life and work of an Oxford parish clergyman who died two years ago. Mr. Duggan was an interesting personality and well known in Oxford. The son of Nonconformist parents, he became a pronounced High Churchman, though his political attachment to Liberalism kept him freer than most High Churchmen from many of the narrowing influences of his theology. To those who knew Mr. Duggan this book will prove of interest, but for the general public there is nothing particularly striking. There is not a little padding taken from parish magazines and other similar ephemeral publications.
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PAMPHLETS.

The Moral and Religious Condition of Wales during the last thirty years. On the testimonies of Welsh Nonconformists. By David Jones, B.A. Bangor: Jarvis and Foster. Price 6d.


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