

light upon the origin of life, spirit, and matter, free-will and determinism. The author comes to the final conclusion that "philosophy and religion may accept and science not reject the conceptions of a Deity, of immortality, and of a Divine scheme of evolution."



In continuation of the foregoing paragraph, and in connection therewith, Mr. Laurie is publishing a consensus of opinion as to what lies beyond the final scene of our earthly existence. The book is composed of a series of papers upon the subject by many of our great modern thinkers, among which I may note the following: Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Crookes, Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, Professor Lombroso, and M. Flammarion. The origination of this book was a pathetic one. Mr. R. J. Thompson lost a very much loved brother, and the thought came to him, with all its vast suggestions, would they meet again, and so he sat down at his table and wrote to these various prominent personages and asked for their opinions.



Mr. Unwin has in the press the following volumes: Professor Bousset's "What is Religion?"; Professor Villari's "Historical and Critical Essays"; Mr. H. de Windt's "Through Savage Europe"; and "The Life of an Empire," by Mr. W. Meakin.



Some new theological books: "The Master of the World: A Study of Christ," by Rev. Charles L. Slattery, Dean of the Cathedral in Faribault, U.S.A.; "Common-sense in Religion," by Martin R. Smith; and "Theomorphism True: God in Modern Light," by Rev. Frank Ballard, in which he continues the defence of fundamental Christian dogmas, which he commenced in his previous volume, "Haeckel's Monism False."



"The World Machine: The First Phase, the Cosmic Mechanism," by Carl Snyder, is almost ready. It is an historical survey of the growth of our knowledge of the world in which we live, from its crudest beginnings to the newest ideas and discoveries of the present day.



Notices of Books.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.

THE APOCALYPSE OF ST. JOHN. By H. B. Swete. London: *Macmillan and Co.* Price 15s.

Slowly but surely we are obtaining modern commentaries of the first rank on all the books of the New Testament. The tradition of the great Cambridge triumvirate, Lightfoot, Westcott, and Hort, is worthily maintained by Dr. Swete, whose "St. Mark" is our foremost modern commentary, and with which the present work will at once take its place. No less than 200 pages are devoted to questions of introduction, and nothing of importance in ancient

or modern scholarship seems to have escaped Dr. Swete's eye. The date of the book is assigned to the reign of Domitian, not of Nero, scholarship thus coming back once more to early tradition. As to authorship, Dr. Swete favours John the Apostle rather than that mythical person John the Presbyter, but he keeps an open mind, waiting for fresh evidence. We are glad to observe the vigorous and convincing arguments for the unity of the book, and also to notice that Dr. Swete believes in the probable identity of the author of the Fourth Gospel and the Apocalypse. It is, however, on the question of interpretation that this work will be most closely examined and criticised. Preterist, historicist, and futurist are in turn dealt with and set aside when regarded as exhaustive interpretations. Dr. Swete lays stress on two facts: the language is that of current apocalyptic literature, and the teaching is conditioned by the historical circumstances of the time. Consequently we are to look, not for exact and detailed fulfilments, but for great spiritual principles as here symbolized. The general position, therefore, agrees with that found in Milligan's well-known works on the Apocalypse. The commentary is marked by all the minute and patient consideration of the text that we have learnt to expect from the great Cambridge tradition. Not a point seems left untouched, not a turn of expression unobserved. The work is a monument of minute and accurate learning, and is at the same time charged with all that reverent submissiveness to the Divine message which is the mark of true Christian scholarship. We are not satisfied that Dr. Swete has sounded all the depths of this wonderful book, nor do we think that his method of interpretation is quite convincing, but it is certain that no student of the Apocalypse will be able to dispense with this great work, in which a perfect mass of information is made accessible and presented with truly remarkable clearness. Dr. Swete tells us that in preparing it he has had in view the great body of English clergy who need guidance in their studies and to whom for several reasons many books are not available. Such are here provided with a wealth of valuable material for many an hour of fruitful study. It is impossible in our space to comment on particular points raised in this work. It must suffice to recommend it with the utmost heartiness as the one commentary on the Apocalypse which, like the commentaries by Dr. Swete's great contemporaries, those already named and the present Dean of Westminster as well, have practically superseded all other commentaries, and are likely to hold the field for a long while to come.

TALES FROM THE TALMUD. By E. R. Montague. *Blackwood*. Price 6s.

We welcome this book with no small degree of cordiality. Mr. Montague has rendered a service to English people by making accessible a certain amount of matter which would otherwise remain totally unknown. To ninety-nine people out of a hundred—even educated people—the Talmud, if the word conveys any clear meaning at all, is a book full of solemn absurdity, and the writers of the book are held up to us with a fine scorn as exponents of deliberate trifling. Granted that much of the Talmud is silly enough, and unpalatable enough, there is a residue which is worth the attention not only of professed students, but of average readers. At the same time, a certain "orientation" of mind is necessary for an appreciation of its marvels. This

is merely another way of saying that it demands sympathetic study. The very quaintness and oddity of this vast collection of Jewish sayings and records are a factor in the extraordinary interest created by even a cursory examination of its contents. The Talmud consists of two parts—(1) the Mishna (the sacred text), and (2) the Gemara (or sacred comment). The Mishna is a digest of Jewish traditions and a manual of Jewish law. It may be described, briefly, as the sacred common law of Judaism. It is the oral canonical law, claiming descent from the men of the great synagogue. There are two recensions of the Talmud—(a) the Babylonian; (b) the Palestinian. (It may be added here that the Targûm, which not infrequently illustrates Apostolic teaching, is a periphrastic interpretation of the Old Testament, giving, roughly, the interpretation of the Old Testament as current in Palestine in the first century of our era. It was committed to writing in Jerome's time.) Mr. Montague has divided his book into five sections: (1) Introductory (giving the history, scope, and specimens of the Talmud); (2) Early Biblical Legends in the Talmud; (3) Later Biblical Legends; (4) Demonology; (5) Other Tales (Esther, Greek influences, post-Biblical legends, and stories of some famous rabbis). The book is very interesting, and, in view of a second edition, we can only urge that he should give us an appendix dealing more fully with the literary history and evolution of the Talmud, and an index. The volume before us is valuable as illustrative of the inner lives and feelings of Jewish people 2,000 years ago.

THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE. By John Denham Parsons.
London: *Fisher Unwin*. Pp. 561. Price 21s.

There is a story, well known in philosophical circles, that soon after the publication (in 1865) of "The Secret of Hegel," by Dr. J. H. Stirling, an acquaintance of that distinguished metaphysician, meeting him one day, could not forbear congratulating him on the "admirable way he had kept the secret." If any equally ready and witty friend of Mr. Parsons should happen to meet the author of the "Nature and Purpose of the Universe," he may justly compliment him on the admirable way *his* secret has been preserved. One feels sorry to have to say it, but, despite the vast labour the author must obviously have expended on this massive treatise, and despite, too, an occasional lightening up of the darkness, we have to admit that the "nature" and "purpose" of things remain as obscure as ever, for all that this treatise does to clear up such obscurities. The author (we believe) thinks, but he cannot write; he is unable to render his thinking intelligible. In fact, to put it briefly, this laborious work is quite (to our mind) unreadable. The present reviewer has done his best to find out what, precisely, the author means, but with little success. A journey through these pages is like a journey through a wilderness. One thinks of Virgil's words, "Ibant obscurè lunæ sub luce maligna." The author avows himself a Christian; but the Christianity is of a kind that it would be hard alike to justify or formulate. Perhaps a clue to our difficulties may be found on the title-page of the volume: "John Denham Parsons: a member of the Society for Psychological Research."

CONCERNING THEM WHICH ARE ASLEEP. By Handley C. G. Moule, Bishop of Durham. S.P.C.K.

A booklet of a few brief pages only, being the postscript to the author's touching and beautiful record of his daughter, entitled "The School of Suffering," a book that has become in a short time well known, and deeply valued by thousands. In the hour of bereavement, when men cannot read very much, it is just the printed message that fellow-Christians will wish to pass on to one another concerning their Lord in relation to themselves and to the loved ones "on His other side."

TWENTY YEARS OF CONTINENTAL WORK AND TRAVEL. By the Right Rev. Bishop Wilkinson, D.D. London: *Longmans and Co.* Price 10s. 6d.

This work is issued under happy auspices, for it is introduced to us in a preface of no small charm by Sir Edmund Monson, sometime British Ambassador, first at Vienna, more recently in Paris. And this is what we read (p. xi): "I have no hesitation in saying that the work accomplished by the author of the following pages [Bishop Wilkinson] has been in every direction successful, and one for which every British subject interested in the welfare of his countrymen abroad may well feel grateful." This is high praise, but we believe it thoroughly deserved. Few Englishmen, probably, are at all aware of the functions or work of the Bishop of Northern and Central Europe, but an hour or two spent in turning over the pages of this most interesting book will be *well* spent; it will help to dispel illusions for one thing, and to let in a good deal of needed light for another. The author within the limits of his vast diocese seems to be all but ubiquitous, and in the course of his pilgrimages he has apparently met everybody worth knowing or seeing. The reader will find in these pages excellent descriptions of Russia and Russian people and scenery—indeed, the Russian chapters are the most interesting portions of the book. He will read of interviews with emperors, statesmen, ecclesiastics, as well as of talks with less exalted, yet in some ways not less interesting, personages. On one page we have a thumb-nail sketch of that great and grim figure of modern Russia, M. Pobiedonostseff; on another a full account of a private meeting with the German Emperor. Oddly enough, we miss any *personalia* connected with an even greater figure, Prince Bismarck. The book lays no claim to brilliance or to literary graces: it is simply the plain record of hard and absorbing work during a twenty years' episcopate. As such it merits our cordial welcome.

THE INGERSOLL LECTURES: (1) "Human Immortality." By Professor William James. (2) "The Eternal Life." By Hugh Münsterberg. (3) "Science and Immortality." By Professor William Osler. (4) "The Conception of Immortality." By Professor Royce. (5) "The Endless Life." By Samuel Crothers. London: *Constable and Co.* Price 1s. each volume.

We have already called attention to two or three volumes in this series in greater detail than we have now space for in chronicling the appearance of a cheap uniform edition of these most suggestive lectures. We can only say that time spent in perusing such works as Professor James or Professor Royce has given cannot be other than profitable and stimulating.

THE STORY OF THE LATER POPES. From the Great Schism to the Present Time (1414-1906). By the Rev. Charles S. Isaacson. M.A., Author of "Roads from Rome." London: *Elliot Stock*. 1906.

This book, though in no way a history, is a very good introduction to history—and history, too, of a curiously interesting kind. Few periods in the world's annals afford so striking a glimpse into the root-principles which determine the actions of mankind as the period which is dealt with in this really interesting little volume. The light thrown here upon the canvas of universal history, even within the compass of a brief 300 pages, is nearly always (it is true) of a lurid kind; but it is none the less of prime importance to see the world under that lurid reflection, if only to become aware of the blackness of the shadows. Not that there are no alleviating rays of a purer light even here; the record of such men as Pope Adrian VI. and Clement XIV. has a beauty, as well as a deep pathos, of its own. Mr. Isaacson has laid before his readers, "in a way not before attempted," a fair and just estimate of the lives of the Roman Pontiffs during the last 500 years; and, where he errs, he will be found to err rather on the side of too great charity than too great severity. The book is written in a simple and quite popular style, and it is calculated to open the eyes of not a few to the inner history of that most remarkable of all developments—the Papal domination. Considerable use has been made of the series of Papal medals, commemorating (as they do) the chief events of each reign, because many of these medals—frequently fine works of art—throw unexpected light on the character of the Popes themselves. These medals are, one and all, excellently reproduced.

THE IMMANENCE OF GOD. By Borden Bowne. London: *Constable and Co.* Price 3s. 6d. net.

A timely and energetic protest against certain doctrines of modern science, as well as against certain developments in theology. The two theories of what the author terms—(1) the "absentee-God" and (2) "Self-running Nature," are judiciously exposed. Professor Bowne (he is Professor of Philosophy in Boston University) writes with reverential feeling; and though we cannot by any means agree with all he says or implies, we cannot but discern much that is valuable in this brief treatise.

THE CULTURE OF THE SOUL AMONG WESTERN NATIONS. By P. Rámanáthan, K.C., C.M.G., Solicitor-General of Ceylon. New York: *Putnam's Sons*. 1906.

This book advances the theory that the aim of all religion, of all actual knowledge of God, is to be attained by the development of love in the soul. The path to this attainment lies (in the writer's view) in following a living teacher who has himself reached that perfection (*viz.*, the Indian *Jnání*), by the development of perfect love within himself. Amid much that is fanciful and exaggerated, and even downright erroneous, in Rámanáthan's teaching, there are stray gleams of thought that are really worth considering. But readers will observe that, despite the evident tenderness felt by the writer for the faith of Christ, we are being taught in these pages, not so much to

reflect on Christianity as taught from a Christian standpoint, as on Christianity as regarded by a teacher of the Hindu faith. A Christianity, indeed, is inculcated throughout, but it is a Christianity devoid of what is, for us, really vital.

PEASANT LIFE IN THE HOLY LAND. By the Rev. C. T. Wilson. London: *John Murray*. Price 12s. net.

The work of one who for many years was a C.M.S. missionary in the Holy Land. The title speaks for itself, and the book includes chapters on "Religion," "Village Life," "Domestic Life," "Agriculture," and the "Minor Industries," of Palestine. On every page the author reveals his intimate knowledge of the people and their ways. The book is written in full view of the light thrown on Scripture by the life of Palestine, and many a Bible passage accordingly becomes most suggestively illuminated. A full index of Scripture passages is a particularly welcome feature in this connection. All who are interested in the relation of the Land to the Book will find in Mr. Wilson a safe and informing guide. A large number of well-executed photographs add considerable interest and value to a most useful and attractive work. As a book of travel only it would be noteworthy, but as a help to Bible students it is particularly welcome.

THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH. By Mrs. Horace Porter. London: *James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. net.

This is one of a new series of "Church Teaching for Young People." There are twelve chapters, giving short sketches of the lives of "Some of the Leading Saints of the Church." The names commence with Ignatius, Polycarp, and Perpetua, and are continued with Athanasius, Basil, Augustine, Monica, Cyril, and Leo. Then come Benedict, Anskar, Olaf, Bernard, Francis of Assisi, Aquinas, and St. Louis of France. In view of the fact that the volume is intended for young people of the Church of England, we confess we cannot understand the principles upon which the authoress has made her choice of the medieval saints. There is nothing distinctively English in Benedict, Aquinas, and Louis which could not have been found in later worthies. For Church of England young people, the choice of Hooker, Herbert, Jeremy Taylor, and Andrewes would have been far more profitable, besides avoiding the impression that "Saints of the Church" suddenly come to an end in the Dark Ages. In view of the New Testament usage of the term "saint," it would have been worth while showing our young people that Roman canonization is not the only mark of sainthood. The stories as here given are well told, but we regret that a fine opportunity was largely lost by the choice made, which in several cases is by no means fully representative of types of saintliness that our young people should know and emulate.

TALKS ABOUT JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS. By Alexander Smellie, M.A. London: *Andrew Melrose*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

A series of sketches from the Gospels intended for boys and girls. Those who know how well Mr. Smellie can write will not be surprised at the freshness and charm of these pages. Boys and girls will find him a delightful companion as he tells once again some stories of the Gospels.

There is a literary grace and a spiritual fragrance about this book, and those boys and girls who read and heed it will have learnt lessons for a lifetime. This is a delightful book, which parents should note.

GENTLE JESUS. By Helen E. Jackson. London: *Andrew Melrose*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

“A Life of Christ for Little Folks.” There are thirty-two chapters, with six illustrations in colours and twenty-eight in black and white. The print is clear, and the story is simply and sympathetically told. This is just the book for mothers to read chapter by chapter to the little folks. “The Sweet Story of Old,” as narrated in these earnest pages, will find its way to young hearts and lives.

LETTERS OF WILLIAM STUBBS. Edited by W. H. Hutton. London: *Constable and Co.* Price 6s. net.

An abridged edition of a book published in 1904. It is full of personal revelations of the great scholar and historian. It will be especially welcomed by all who knew or heard the late Bishop of Oxford.

THE DAY'S MARCH. By G. R. Wynne, D.D. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 1s.

Though written for boys and girls in the form of “a daily portion,” this little book will be found equally useful to parents and workers among children. It is attractively written, and its lessons are based on the Creed and the duty towards God and our neighbour. A little prayer most fittingly closes each talk. We warmly recommend this little work.

GOD'S INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES. By William Kelly. London: *T. Weston*. Price 5s.

The author of this book, who has lately passed away, was a well-known and honoured leader of the Plymouth Brethren. His numerous works have long had a wide and appreciative audience, and the book before us has many of the points familiar to the readers of Mr. Kelly's writings. The first chapter deals with the Divine authority of Scripture. Then follow two chapters on Apostolic Doctrine. The human element in Scripture is then considered, and the rest of the book, extending to five hundred pages, is occupied with an outline of all the books of the Bible in order, showing what the author considers to be the “Divine design” of each book. No one can read this book without feeling that he is in the presence of a profound Bible student, and though he may not be able to endorse every position, he certainly will find food for thought, a deep spiritual experience, and any amount of suggestion for his own further study of the Word of God.

THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH. By Sidney Collett. London: *S. W. Partridge and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

A popular Bible handbook, giving information about the origin, languages, translations, canon, symbols, and inspiration of Scripture. It also discusses its plan, its science, its alleged errors and contradictions, and its relation to other sacred books. On all these the author has much to say that is interesting and instructive. We do not agree with all his interpretations or accept every position laid down, but the mass of information contained within the

covers of this book is remarkable, and will prove extremely useful to Bible-class and Sunday-school teachers. It fills a place of its own in affording such an amount of material in so convenient and cheap a form, and it should have a wide sphere of usefulness.

FICTION AND GENERAL.

HOLY LAND. By Gustav Frenssen. Translated from the German by Mary Agnes Hamilton. London: *Archibald Constable and Co., Ltd.* Price 6s.

An English translation of a German novel which has had a very large circulation and made a remarkable stir in Germany. It is an attempt to popularize the humanitarian views of our Lord, which are now, unfortunately, prevalent in certain circles of German scholarship. The story is interesting and in parts fascinating, though it does not hold well together throughout. It is not without its seamy side, and the association of sexual problems with those of the criticism of the Gospels is decidedly unattractive. The author is greatly lacking in reticence. The book is chiefly noteworthy as a portent, for if it represents what Germany is going to believe about Christ and His Gospel, it will not be long before we shall see the disastrous effects of its teaching in the life and morals of the people. A Christianity which gives us a human Christ, and an imperfect Christ at that, cannot provide any moral dynamic to stem the tide of human depravity. Extreme criticism will thus work itself out along the lines of moral inability, and assuredly lead to moral disaster. Then, perhaps, when it is too late, men will want to turn to the Divine Christ and Saviour whom they have rejected.

DOLPHIN OF THE SEPULCHRE. By Gertrude Hollis. London: *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.*

A well-told tale of the time of Becket with a rather unattractive title. Dolphin takes his name from the Church at Northampton, which was built in imitation of the Holy Sepulchre, and with which his supposed father was connected. Dolphin was attached to Becket's train as page, and was devoted to his master; but the real hero of the book is the Archbishop himself, of whom the authoress gives a vivid series of pictures. Unfortunately, she seems to admire the character of Becket.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS.

CHURCH DIRECTORY AND ALMANACK. London: *James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. net.

The volume for this year is larger than ever, extending to nearly 750 pages, and all for two shillings. The type is clear, the information ample, and, so far as we have tested it, accurate. This directory, by its convenience and cheapness, occupies a place entirely its own, and thoroughly deserves the large circulation which we feel sure it will obtain.

THE PULPIT YEAR-BOOK. London: *James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. net.

A volume of Sermon Outlines for the current year giving two outlines for each Sunday or Holy Day, based mainly on the Scriptures for the day. The teaching of the special seasons is of course brought out. The preface tells us that the sermons included in these pages "represent the work of between eighty and ninety different clergymen, some of them the most distinguished preachers of the day." For clergy who have little time for preparation these outlines, if properly used, should be of service.

FULL DESK CALENDAR FOR 1907. London: *James Nisbet and Co., Ltd.* Price 1s. net.

This calendar consists of one slip for each Sunday and Holy Day of the Christian Year, to be torn off as required. Besides giving the Psalms and Lessons, there are spaces for notices and suggestions for the choice of hymns. The calendar will prove of real service

week by week to the clergy. We notice on the top corner of each slip the words "white," or "red," or "violet," or "green," and we cannot discover any explanation, for there is nothing about these or any other colours in the Prayer-Book. We have not hitherto associated information (if such it be) of this kind with the firm which issues this calendar. It would, in our judgment, be in every way better to confine the information strictly to what is legal and found in the Prayer-Book.

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY REVIEW. London: *The Church Missionary Society.* Price 6d.

We give a hearty welcome to this new magazine, or, rather, this continuation of the old *Intelligencer*. It was high time that the C.M.S. got rid of that obsolete and awkward word, and for our part we should be glad to see it removed altogether from the title-page, or else put in very much smaller print. But custom dies hard. The contents should appear on the cover as well as inside. We are very glad that the C.M.S. has now its own organ dealing with the great facts and problems of the mission-field, and we hope this magazine will have a large circulation and a powerful influence.

THE C.M.S. GAZETTE. London: *The Church Missionary Society.* Price 1d.

A magazine for all home workers of the Society, and one that is evidently going to be indispensable to all who would keep abreast of the Society's work and methods.

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY GLEANER. London: *The Church Missionary Society.* Price 1d.

An old friend in a new cover, which is a great improvement on the former one. Its pictures and letterpress are full of interest, and the magazine is particularly suited for circulation among those who are generally interested or may become interested in missions.

THE CHURCH GAZETTE. London: *The National Church League.* Price 2d.

This number of the organ of the National Church League opens the year well. The Dean of Canterbury writes on "The Prospect in 1907," and has a plain word about the main issue at stake in the light of Lord Halifax's recent reference to the principles of the Reformation. The Rev. W. E. Chadwick has an article on "Our Present Responsibility," which takes as its text a remarkable statement about Evangelicals in the recently published great work of Professor Gwatkin. There are other interesting and valuable articles, reviews, and notes, and the magazine is full of interest and value to all who love our Catholic, Apostolic, Reformed, Protestant heritage.

THE BIBLE IN THE WORLD. London: *The Bible House.* Price 1d.

All who value the Bible Society and its work should read and circulate this admirably edited and truly interesting magazine.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF APOCRYPHA. London: *The International Society of the Apocrypha.* Price 6d.

This is *Deutero-Canonical* under a far better title. Its aim is to consider the Apocryphal books of the Old and New Testaments, especially the former. There is not a little interesting and useful information, but an insufficient distinction seems to us to be drawn between the canonical and uncanonical books, and one that does not square with prophecies.

LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE. Annual Report and Statements of Accounts. Leyton: *Livingstone College.*

This college, under the Principalship of Dr. C. F. Harford, gives medical training to missionaries.

IN THE CAUSE OF DIVINE LEARNING. London: *Henry Frowde.*

An account of St. Deiniol's Library at Hawarden, which is now open to theological students.

TITHE COMMUTATION. By G. H. Taylor. London: *Shaw and Sons.* Price 1d.

Table showing the value of tithe rent charges for the year 1907.

THE BISHOPS AND NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS. Letter to an Incumbent of the Diocese of Salisbury. From John Wordsworth, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 6d.

RECEIVED :

Our Little Dots, The Child's Companion, Church Missionary Review, Church Missionary Gleaner, Awake, The Round World, India's Witness, The 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, The Church Gazette, Grievances from Ireland (No. 24), The Dawn of Day, Girls' Own Paper, Orient and Occident, The Expository Times, The Lay Reader, The Optimist, Open Doors (Organ of Mrs. Meredith's Homes).