Notices of Books.


This large book of over 450 pages of bold type consists of the Kerr Lectures, nine in number, delivered to the Glasgow Free Church College. The title does not by any means convey a full idea of the contents of the book. The author wishes to prove that faith and freedom are absolutely necessary to each other, and that the ultimate problem of the last two centuries has been the relation of the two—"the problem of how faith is to be absolute and freedom absolute, yet both one." His main thesis is that no man can have a real faith in God who is not absolutely free from all external compulsion, and on the other hand that no one can experience true freedom except through faith in God. For the discussion and illustration of the problem we are first of all treated to an introductory lecture in which the new era which dawned at the Reformation is ably and suggestively dealt with. Then the progress of thought since that time is discussed in a series of chapters, beginning with "Jesuitism and Pascal's Pensées," going on to "English Deism and Butler's Analogy," and then continuing with discussions of Kant, Romanticism, Schleiermacher, Newman, Baur, and Ritschl, until at length we reach the last chapter which sums up the whole question under "Method and Results." Thus Dr. Oman reviews the course of English, French, and German religious thought during the last two centuries, a truly gigantic task. His clear grasp of the situation and his easy mastery of his material are equally remarkable, while his criticisms of the various movements are at once penetrating, illuminating, and on the whole convincing. There are, of course, gaps in his treatment, and we should have much liked to have seen room found for a fuller treatment of English thought on the subject, and in particular for the contributions of Hooker, Milton, and Scott; nor are we prepared to endorse the author's view of Ritschlianism, or his almost complete rejection of the idea of the institution as contrasted with the individual. In our rebound against the tyranny of the institution as represented by Rome, we must take care not to go to the other extreme and deny its essential and important place in the progress of human thought and life. Instead of the narrow, unworthy, and deadening view of the Church as presented by Roman Catholicism, we must insist upon the truly spiritual, Catholic, and inspiring view of the Church as delineated in the New Testament. Protestant thought, especially of the Nonconformist and Presbyterian type, has still a great deal to learn about the doctrine of the Church in relation to the individual. The book, as a whole, is a real contribution to the subject, and will prove of first-rate value to all who are called upon to face fundamental issues. It will go far to establish the author as one of our leading thinkers, and we shall look forward with great interest to other works from his pen. For all students of the course of thought since the sixteenth century this book will prove indispensable, while the list of authorities given at the commencement of each chapter will be of very special help. We have read the book with great enjoyment and no little profit, and
we are doing a bare duty in calling attention to it and recommending it warmly to our readers. It adds an additional lustre to the Kerr Lectureship, which opened so worthily with Dr. Orr's "Christian View of God and the World," and which has since produced at least two other books of primary and permanent importance.


Matthew Arnold, many years ago, in a well-known essay upon the "Meditations" of Marcus Aurelius, remarked that this was one of the great books of the world that no one would desire to read in the original if he could read it in a faithful translation. When Arnold wrote, Long's translation held the field (for Jeremy Collier's is, at best, less a translation than a paraphrase). For that matter, Long's is still, in some respects, the best rendering for a student who wishes to get as close to the original as possible. But it labours somewhat under this defect: it is not easy reading, and now and again it is apt to be uncouth. Not so the present version, which, if it adheres less closely to the original Greek, is at least smooth and, for the most part, easy reading. There is another rendering—which we have not consulted—Dr. Rendall's; the main feature of that book is, however, its admirable introductory matter. Professor Bigg's Introduction is worthy of that writer's fame; it is a closely reasoned, though necessarily brief, piece of work, and deserves to be read once, twice, and again, if the reader is successfully to understand the matter of the "Meditations" themselves. And these "Meditations" of the Emperor-Saint, what shall we say of them? They constitute one of the most profoundly touching books ever penned; transparent sincerity, a wistfulness and resignation that move one to the depths, noble aspiration, beauty of character, candour of intelligence—all these qualities are reflected in this unique "manual of the resigned life" (as Renan aptly terms it). Where does it fail, then?—for fail it does. Somehow, even in his most exalted moments, the writer seems, unaccountably, to miss something—a something we do not look for vainly in that other "manual of the resigned life," the "De Imitatione" of Thomas à Kempis. Possibly the very resignation we cannot but marvel at in the Emperor is at fault; a tragic resignation it is—but to what? To Necessity, Nature, Destiny; whereas, in the other, we trace a lovelier form of the same virtue—resignation to the will of a perfectly loving and all-wise God. At heart desperately religious, Marcus was religious in the agnostic sense; the note of a living Personality is strangely absent in the harmony of his universe. And so his book, though a tonic for the strong-souled, never yet—save by virtue of the contrast to that Other which it adumbrated—brought solace to unrestful hearts, or soothed the bed of a dying sinner. "One thing thou lackest." It is all summed up in those four words. Yet we are glad to possess this priceless memoir of a really noble soul—a soul "naturaliter Christiana," we fain would think, yet missing the perfect consolation and joy opened to the world in the vision of the Crucified.
NOTICES OF BOOKS

Contemporary Portraits of Reformers of Religion and Letters.
Price 10s. 6d.

This handsome book is, in part, a reproduction of Beza's "Icones" (1580). That is to say, the portraits in Beza's work have been reproduced in facsimile, together with some few extra plates from Goulard's 1581 edition of the "Icones"; while the letterpress has been added by Dr. McCrie. This letterpress consists of introductory matter and short biographies. A more delightful book it would be difficult to imagine, and the Religious Tract Society are to be heartily congratulated on the extremely attractive appearance of the volume. The fifty-one portraits are all printed on Japanese paper. A word as to the letterpress. It is, in its way, useful, but too thin to be of service to students, though perhaps sufficient to give the salient features in the life of each "reformer." Occasionally, however, Dr. McCrie is less than adequate—e.g., in his note on the Scaligers, where he does scant justice to their scholarship. We turn with special interest to the account of Cranmer. The author, on the whole, does justice to the memory of this great, but often misunderstood, man; yet we miss any reference to Tennyson's drama "Queen Mary," in which the student of history will find a subtle and illuminating picture of this great scholar and master. Should a second edition of the book be called for, Dr. McCrie would, we think, do well to add a brief bibliographical note to each of his sketches, by way of putting the general reader in possession of such information as will enable him to follow up his reading, by acquainting himself with the best and most accessible books bearing on the subject.

The Self-Interpretation of Jesus Christ. By the Rev. G. S. Streatfeild, M.A. Hodder and Stoughton. 1907.

This book, while in no sense an original contribution to theological learning, is one the value of which careful readers will not be slow to mark. There is a grasp and reality about the book which arrest attention. The theme is that old, but ever new, one, "What think ye of Christ?" And the result of the inquiry is to establish once again the conviction (which no sober Christian could ever dispute) that our Lord really believed Himself to be the Messiah, and that He believed Himself to be, in a unique sense, the Son of God. It may seem strange that, after nearly two millenniums of Christian teaching, such a book as this should be found necessary. But a glance, however casual, at some of the "latest theology"—German, Dutch, or English—will show that the last phase of "criticism" has been in the nature of a determined assault on the two fundamental points above named. The progress of these "critical" assaults is somewhat curious to watch. At one time the miraculous element in the Gospel narrative is denied; at another, the historicity of Jesus Christ as a man; at another, the words attributed to Christ in the Gospels are declared to be the work of a later story-making epoch, when writers—obliged, indeed, to account for the beliefs that were fast-established articles of the Creed—invented a historical framework for the setting of these very beliefs. The subject is discussed with remarkable skill and deftness by Mr. Streatfeild, and the reader will do well to
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study each chapter with the most scrupulous care. Our thanks are due to him for a most helpful and suggestive little treatise. In a second edition we would advise the addition of a good index—to the abundant footnotes, if not to the text itself—and a careful revision of the accents on words quoted in the original Greek.


We welcome another volume of this useful series. Dr. Elder Cumming has once more proved the truth of the Psalmist's promise that "they shall bring forth fruit in old age." He has attacked a very difficult book, very unlike his former task on the Psalms, but he seems to us to have been entirely successful. In a series of clear, definite, pointed chapters, he deals with the problems and lessons of the book in a truly admirable way, providing food for mind and heart, and fulfilling exactly the purpose of this valuable commentary. We are here afforded the best available spiritual commentary on this little-used book.


The author is one of the leading Baptist ministers in London, and one whose ministry is marked by great freshness of thought and ripeness of experience. The qualities that have enabled him to hold and keep a large and attached congregation, and give him acceptance wherever he preaches, are abundantly in evidence in this work. In a series of twenty-five brief expositions we have a fresh and forceful commentary on this most practical Epistle. The comments clearly come from one who has the instinct and experience of a true pastor, and the result is that the book is at once expository and devotional. The Religious Tract Society is filling a real gap in our literature by the publication of this devotional commentary. There is nothing else quite like it, and it is being as successfully carried out as it is urgently required.


These are the kind of sermons for the present day. We read them, and understand the preacher's popularity, for a gospel so fully, so faithfully, and so forcefully preached will always secure a large audience. Originality and simplicity are combined with a strict fidelity to fundamental Bible truths. The first sermon provides the title of the book. "Poverty of Spirit—the Other Side of Greatness" is the title in full. A necessary and neglected distinction is drawn between poverty of spirit and poor-spiritedness. All great souls in the intellectual, moral, and spiritual sphere are poor in spirit; but they are not poor-spirited. No man with an ideal can fail to be the former, but he dare not be the latter. The writer has a great spiritual insight, and he devotes the contents of a cultured mind to presenting to the people the highest themes.
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We expect solidity, knowledge of human nature, grasp of pressing problems, as well as spirituality, and we are not disappointed. The title is a little misleading, as many Harrow sermons are here included, and we feel the ordinary "village" audience would not always succeed in following the thoughts. In the hands of the country or town parson the sermons should prove of immense value if wisely used. Subjects for the Church's seasons provide us with the full-orbed Scriptural expositions of one of our greatest Bible students.


A series of lectures on the books and times of the Apocrypha, containing a good deal of useful information in a very convenient form. Great interest has been recently aroused in the books of the Apocrypha, and we do well to learn all that can be known about the "centuries of silence" between Malachi and Matthew, but we deplore very seriously the claim made for the Apocrypha in this book, for the author virtually puts these writings on a level with the Books of the Old Testament. When, for instance, we read that "the English Bible is not complete without the Apocrypha" (p. 15), and "the Apocrypha formed part of the first Christian Bible, and has been retained ever since" (p. 20), we are at once conscious that the author has no clear distinction between the grounds of the canonicity of the Old Testament and the Church's rejection of these books. So long as the books of the Apocrypha are kept in the position laid down in Article VI. it can do nothing but good to read them and learn all we can about their times.


A new edition of the Hulsean Lectures by the late Bishop of London. The lectures are marked by all the Bishop's wealth of learning, keen penetration, and remarkable insight into first principles. The main conclusions are that the infliction of punishment for erroneous opinions was contrary to the teaching of Christ and alien to the spirit of Christianity, and that persecution as a system was adopted from the world, and was never regarded as an essential part and outcome of Christianity. The book is a powerful contribution to a subject of perennial importance, one, too, upon which no little confusion of thought exists. Bishop Creighton's weighty discussion will do much to disperse the mist.


The author of this book has been lately taken from us. His mind seems to have been a perennial fount of suggestion. Here is another volume of his deeply interesting devotional studies and meditations. We are arrested on almost every page by some daring suggestion, or felicitous remark, or searching test, or personal application. We may not agree with every interpretation, and may sometimes be a little impatient with
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his excessive wealth of antithesis and alliteration, but without doubt mind and heart are continually brought face to face with the eternal realities of Divine truth. This is a book to be read, pondered, and circulated.


A book of ten beautiful Communion addresses. "Comfort and sweetness" are their aim, not "theory" or "controversy." To say that a theme so often dealt with is here rendered uncommon and refreshing should be high testimony. The touch of the scholar accompanies the spiritual unfolding of successive Scripture thoughts applicable to the Lord's Supper. These in the author's hands become exegetically interesting as well as devotionally attractive. The happy and refreshing title accords well with the message of this book to the soul of the communicant.


An excellent little compendium of 126 brief pages upon the main parts of Christian doctrine, suitable for any thoughtful reader as an aid to systematic study of Bible truths. It is written from an evangelical and modern Presbyterian standpoint. It will form a stepping-stone to larger works by Professor Orr, Bishop Moule, or the late Professor Salmond and Dr. Dale.

The Song of Songs. Arranged by F. Coutts. John Lane. Price 1s. and 1s. 6d.

This arrangement in seven scenes as a lyrical folk-play is based somewhat on the "shepherd hypothesis." The work has been undertaken with a free hand, but certainly continuity of thought has been attained.

The Diocese of Southwark. A short but interesting account of the work and needs of South London. S.P.C.K.


This booklet, prefaced by Rev. N. Dimock, will prove a useful key to the visions. The writer's years and study bespeak attention.


A temperate, well-considered, and broad defence of the Establishment.


We cannot too strongly recommend this booklet. It should be read by all who take for gospel some of the ingenious guesswork of the Higher Critics. It is specially suited for distribution among thoughtful laity.


Short readings for the great forty days.

The Great Commandment. By Rev. J. Mitchinson, D.C.L.

The Bishop is scholarly without losing force, and thoughtful without being dry. These sermons on love to God and man are well worth perusing. He writes from the point of view of an old-fashioned High Churchman, and has a strong grasp of modern difficulties.
TYPES, PSALMS, AND PROPHECIES. By David Baron. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 3s. 6d.

These Old Testament studies are distinctly illuminating. The writer has soared in thought, and has dwelt deep. A Jewish Christian, he has a passionate loyalty to Christ and to his own nation. Most of these studies have appeared in "The Scattered Nation," while "The Sacred Calendar of the History of Redemption" is altogether new. The writer bestows a deserved contempt on vague, disjointed Bible study. He is sure that a continuous and systematic unfolding of Holy Scripture showing the connection and interdependence of Scripture with Scripture is the one thing needful. The Old Testament is a sealed book to many, while the true position of Israel in relation to the purposes of God is unrealized. We warmly commend the book.

GENERAL.

A TREASURY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE (From the Beginning to the Eighteenth Century). Selected and arranged with Translations and Glossaries by Kate M. Warren. With an Introduction by Stopford A. Brooke. London: Archibald Constable and Co., Ltd. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The justification of this book amid all the anthologies that we possess is that it was prepared, in the first instance, as a companion to Mr. Stopford Brooke's "Primer of English Literature," to illustrate by selections the history and criticism in that now well-known manual. At the same time the book can be used quite apart from Mr. Brooke's "Primer" by all students of English literature. The authoress claims that her book fills a place "as an English anthology representing more fully than has yet been attempted in a brief selection the course of our literature (with the exception of the Drama) from the earliest time to the eighteenth century." The selections end with the poetry of Burns, so that the range from the time of Chaucer is wide, while the choice is thoroughly representative. Mr. Stopford Brooke contributes an Introduction in which he has some deeply interesting and illuminating comments and suggestions on English Literature and its study. For beginners the use of the "Primer" with this work as a companion will form one of the very best introductions to the study. There are close upon a thousand pages of clear type, and though the paper is necessarily thin, it is not inconveniently transparent. The get-up of the book is attractive, and it ought to command a wide sale among students and general readers of English literature.


The Bishop of New York has a light touch and considerable skill as a portrait painter. He gives us thirteen character-sketches; ten of them are concerned with American Bishops, the last three with our own Archbishops Tait, Benson, and Temple. His references to our English Metropolitans
NOTICES OF BOOKS

are graceful, appreciative, and accurate. For some time he was Secretary of the American Episcopal House, and as such came into close contact with all sorts and conditions of Bishops. The reminiscences are bright and full of humour. They show the writer to be a man of open mind, and ready to appreciate greatness of Christian character in men of every shade of opinion. There are several good stories—in fact, we have found the book thoroughly entertaining from beginning to end.


A few familiar nursery rhymes are to be found in this book, together with some original poems by Helen Grlington. Mary Howitt's poem on "Autumn" and Bishop How's verses on "Winter" are also included, while the drawings by Mr. Edwards will please the children.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS.


The first article is by one who is familiar to our readers, Mr. Harold M. Wiener, who deals trenchantly and convincingly with "Some Fatal Weaknesses of the Wellhausen School." Among the other articles are "Esthetics and Ethics," "Is 'Proverbs' Utilitarian?" and "A New Oxford Movement," the last-named dealing with the philosophy of religion as represented by Dr. Illingworth. The articles are not by names well known in this country, but there is much that is useful in this old and always welcome quarterly.


The first article, which will attract the widest attention, is on "The Lord's Command to Baptize," by the Bishop of Ely (Dr. Chase), in which the rendering of the Revised Version of Matthew xxviii. 19 is ably championed. "Israel in Camp: A Study" is the next article, by the Rev. G. St. Clair, in which astronomy is brought in to shed light upon the position of the various tribes of Israel in the wilderness. The rest of this number is almost entirely technical, and will only appeal to students.

THE OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. London: S.P.C.K. Price 3s. Once again we are indebted to the S.P.C.K. for this truly wonderful compendium of institutions connected with our Church. The volume extends to over 700 pages of small yet clear type, and it is difficult to imagine any information concerning the Church that is not found in these pages. The book is, of course, indispensable to all who would keep informed of what the Church of England is doing at home and abroad.


A reprint in cheap form of some well-known and valuable papers by the late Provost of Trinity College, Dublin. The writer remembers Dr. Wace advising his students, years ago, to read everything that came from Dr. Salmon's pen, and the contents of this book fully justify the Dean's counsel. Dr. Salmon was equally great as a mathematician and a theologian.


A reprint, with a new preface, of a pamphlet issued two years ago as an answer to Harnack's book "What is Christianity?" It is now published with special reference to the New Theology of which we have been hearing of late, and there is much in it that is equally applicable to both positions. The author wields a trenchant pen, and though we may not be able to approve of all his epithets, we are in the heartiest sympathy and agreement with his main position. Christianized rationalism is, indeed, the best description of the New Theology.
NOTICES OF BOOKS


A new edition of three addresses dealing respectively with the past, present, and future of the believer's life. It is marked by no little freshness of treatment, and with large knowledge of the Bible and of the human heart.


A handbook full of ammunition for Church defenders, dealing exclusively with the Church in Wales. We are not prepared to endorse every one of its positions as, in our judgment, truly expressive of the mind of the Church, but it contains a mass of facts which should be used by all who are determined to oppose the movement in favour of the Welsh Disestablishment.


A second edition of a little work issued twelve months ago, which was reviewed in these columns on its first appearance.

VICTORY; OR, TEMPTATION AND HOW TO MEET IT. By G. S. Eddy. London: Elliot Stock. Price 6d.

Two admirable discussions, full of point and force. Just the very thing to circulate amongst young men. It is by one of themselves, who speaks out of a full and wide experience. They should be widely circulated. We are only sorry that the price is so high in these days of cheap and valuable material.


This useful publication, which comes to us regularly year by year, is of the greatest possible value to all who are seeking Degrees in the London University.


A brief account of the walls of that most interesting place, Berwick-upon-Tweed. All who have visited the place, or intend to do so, will find a great deal of information in this pamphlet, which is written by a well-known Vicar in the town.


CHURCH MUSIC SOCIETY REPRINTS. No. 4, price 3d; No. 5, price 4d.

This Society has been formed for the purpose of supplying all possible information to organists and choir-masters, and the reprints now before us consist of four anthems, two in each, and are published by Henry Frowde, Amen Corner.


A useful and telling statement of the need of missions to Mohammedans.


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