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as the most valuable from the point of view of pure literature. There are narrative passages, poetical passages, and passages of prophecy, and most are accompanied by brief notes, referring them to their proper dates, and indicating the changes made in the text by the different revisions. The book is divided into two portions, the first of which is occupied by narrative, and the second by poetic, prophetic, and philosophic literature.



The S.P.C.K. are issuing "Egypt and Western Asia in the Light of Recent Discoveries," by Mr. L. W. King, M.A., and Mr. H. R. Hall, M.A., of the British Museum; Early Church Classics: "St. Chrysostom on the Priesthood," by Rev. T. Allen Moxon, M.A.; Fathers for English Readers: a second edition of "St. Patrick: His Life and Teaching," by Rev. E. J. Newell, M.A.; and Non-Christian Religious Systems: "Studies of Non-Christian Religions," in a new revised edition, by Eliot Howard.



### Notices of Books.

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MORAL IDEAS. By Edward Westermarck, Ph.D. London: *Macmillan and Co.* 1906.

In many ways this is a very valuable book. It is crowded with sociological facts laboriously collected and carefully arranged. As a mine of information, it will be extremely useful to students not only of ethics, but also of sociology, psychology, and of comparative religion. It would be impossible to praise too highly the trouble which the author has taken in the collection of these facts. To give a single instance of this: He tells us that he lived in Morocco for four years with the sole object of studying at first hand the life and customs of the people. He wished to make himself acquainted with "the native way of thinking," so that he might better understand "customs occurring at a stage of civilization different from our own." It is, however, one thing to make careful observations and assiduously to collect facts; it is another thing to deduce principles and theories correctly from these. In his attempt to do this Dr. Westermarck has to a considerable extent failed. After reading his book most carefully, I am driven to the conclusion that he has (however unconsciously) started with far too strong prepossessions in favour of his own particular theory. Thus, he has hardly approached his subject with the openness of mind and freedom of judgment which it demanded.

Had Dr. Westermarck published separately the second half of this large volume as "A Contribution to Inductive Sociology," he would have done a real service to students of that science; but if the book is to be judged as a whole, the unsatisfactory nature of the first part, which is more or less philosophical, considerably detracts from its value.

The book arose from a discussion of the following questions: "Why do the moral ideas"—judgments of what is right and wrong—"in general differ so greatly? And, on the other hand, why is there in many cases such a

wide agreement? Nay, why are there any moral ideas at all?" The book before us—a record of the author's "researches and thoughts"—is the first instalment of an attempt to answer these questions. The present volume (a second has just been issued), which contains more than 700 octavo pages, may be divided into two parts. The first part, to quote the author's own words, "comprises a study of the moral concepts: right, wrong, duty, justice, virtue, merit, etc. Such a study requires an examination of the moral emotions, their nature and origin, as also into the relations between these emotions and the various concepts." Following these, in the second part, comes "a discussion of the phenomena to which such concepts are applied—the subjects of moral judgments."

These chapters deal with many subjects of a highly controversial character—subjects upon which ethical students and philosophical writers have held, and still hold, very different opinions.

Dr. Westermarck is apt to treat somewhat summarily the opinions of those who differ from him. In the first chapter—on "The Origin of the Moral Judgments"—he criticizes severely the ethical theories not only of the utilitarians—*e.g.*, Sir James Stephen, Bentham, and James Mill—but those of the so-called rational school, represented by Cudworth, Clarke, Price, and Reid, according to whose teaching "the morality of actions is perceived by the intellect." These thinkers, in the language of the Schoolmen, were "Realists." "Morality is eternal and immutable," says Richard Price. In Dr. Westermarck's theory we seem to have reached the extreme limits of "nominalism." As an exceedingly painstaking collector of sociological data, Dr. Westermarck deserves the highest praise. As a moral philosopher, even as a logician, we must decline to regard him seriously.

With chapter xiv. we enter upon the second, and much the more satisfactory, part of the volume. In this part are discussed the phenomena which are the subject of moral judgments—"the particular modes of conduct which are subject to moral valuation." The author has certainly not unduly limited his field of survey, and every chapter bears witness to his untiring industry. The range of subjects discussed is very wide. Every chapter is packed with information, from which the student of sociology and the student of comparative religion may gain valuable knowledge, some of which is not elsewhere available. Among other points, light is often thrown upon the meaning of an Old Testament passage or upon an allusion in early Christian literature, by comparison of customs (there described or referred to) with similar usages among other non-Biblical peoples. Again and again we find proof of the superiority of the ethical standard both of the Israelites and of the early Christian teachers.

Some readers may ask, What bearings have Dr. Westermarck's researches in relation to Christianity? The question is an important one, but one which, if answered at all, must be answered by many references to minute detail. But while I believe Dr. Westermarck's theory, or chief conclusion, to be to a great extent false, I do not condemn it because I think it in any way likely to be subversive of Christian teaching. That the emotions do play some part in the moral judgments of all may be to some extent true, and that they play a *large* part in the moral judgments of

uneducated people and of primitive peoples is probably also true. Dr. Westermarck's mistake lies in his making the emotions the chief source, even the chief standard (though he hardly admits of any moral standard), of these judgments. But supposing, for the sake of argument, his theory were true—suppose our emotions are the chief arbiters of right and wrong—have we not been endowed by God with emotions as surely as we have been endowed by Him with reason? And cannot the emotions be purified and sanctified by Him to His service? Further, morality, or right conduct, is surely the highest and most important of all human activities; the reason is surely a higher faculty than the emotions. Shall, then, the highest and most important of activities spring from, and be ruled and governed by, a lower than the highest of all faculties? To establish such a theory will require stronger evidence than Dr. Westermarck has so far adduced in support of it.

W. EDWARD CHADWICK.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION IN JAPAN.** By G. W. KNOX, D.D., LL.D.  
New York: *G. P. Putnam's Sons*. 1907.

This volume is the sixth in a series. The first was Professor Rhys Davids' "Buddhism," which was followed by volumes on various religious subjects by such writers as T. K. Cheyne, Dr. Brinton, K. Budde, and G. Steindorf. Each volume is made up of a number of popular lectures delivered under the auspices of an American Committee, something after the style of the Hibbert Lectures in England. The present volume is not the least valuable in the series. Dr. Knox has a rare—we might almost say unequalled—knowledge of Japan and of Japanese religions. He was for many years a missionary there, and subsequently held two important professional posts at Tokio. The purpose of these lectures is not so much to add to our knowledge of the facts, nor even to set forth the various systems of belief which have, successively, expressed the national faith, but rather to show how the religious feelings have been excited, and how, in the course of ages, they have changed and progressed. The book is of first-rate importance to a student of Eastern religions in particular, and of the religious idea in history generally; but we are disappointed to find scarcely a reference throughout it to Christianity or its probable influence on future Japan.

**THE BIRTH AND INFANCY OF JESUS CHRIST.** By the Rev. L. M. Sweet.  
London: *Cassell and Co., Ltd.* Price 6s. net.

The controversy on the Virgin-Birth of our Lord is still acute among us, and is hardly likely to subside for some time. The present work, which comes to us from the ranks of the American Presbyterian ministry, is therefore very timely. The author tells us that it is the result of an inquiry into the documents "conducted for the purpose of reaching satisfactory personal conclusions on the subjects of Christ's Birth and Youth." It is especially interesting to know that the author began his study with a bias "rather unfavourable to the doctrine of the Miraculous Birth," but the results of his investigation have been to assure a belief in the authenticity and authority of the narratives of the Infancy in St. Matthew and St. Luke. After a careful statement of the problem and a chapter dealing with the "Influence of the Old Testament Prophecies in the Formation of the Infancy Story," four

modern theories in opposition to the Virgin-Birth are successively examined, and after thorough and acute discussion set aside. A fine chapter follows on "The Exegetical Construction" of the Infancy narratives, and the two concluding chapters deal with "The Uniqueness of Christ in its Bearing upon the Question of His Birth" and "The Doctrinal Construction of the Historic Fact." There are six valuable notes in the form of an Appendix, which will be of special usefulness to scholars. We have read the book with very great interest. It is a frank and fearless discussion, and marked by wide reading and great ability. The author seems to have faced everything of importance that has been urged against the Virgin-Birth, and gives his reasons for rejecting all opposing theories, and for adhering to the old paths. The book will take rank with the best works on the subject. The note on Bibliography will show the width and power of the author's reading. We are glad that this work has been introduced to English readers, for it is one to be read and studied by all who would know the latest and best that can be said on this vital subject. Clergymen and theological students in particular should make a note of it. It is a model of scholarship, ability, and courage.

**THE BOOK OF ESTHER.** With Introduction and Notes by the Rev. A. W. Streane, D.D. Cambridge Bible for Schools. Cambridge: *University Press*. Price 1s. 6d. net.

Gradually this useful series approaches completion, and here is the latest volume. The author's view is that the Book of Esther has a historical basis, though possessing elements of romance as well. He concludes that the book was written very possibly in Persia by a Jew familiar with the character of the time with which he dealt, and scarcely later than 300 B.C. (Introduction, p. xix). For our part, we are quite unable to accept this view as in any way explaining the presence of the book in the Old Testament canon. Dr. Streane holds that the value of the book is unimpaired by the character he assigns to it. We, on the other hand, consider its value very seriously impaired, and we cannot help regretting that those in "schools and colleges," for whom this series is intended, should be, so to speak, "brought up" on this view of one of the Old Testament books. It is, we fear, only another illustration of the vague and unsatisfactory views prevalent to-day with reference to the essential character and Divine authority of the Old Testament canon. Consistently with the author's view, the additions to the book from the Apocrypha are given with the usual explanatory notes. Bearing in mind the author's general position, the notes are clear, concise, and adequate for the ordinary study of the book.

**OLD TESTAMENT MIRACLES IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL.** By the Rev. A. Allen Brockington. Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 3s. net.

This little work applies the Johannine word "signs" to the miracles of the Old Testament, and seeks to elicit the symbolical and spiritual meaning of these events. There is much that is spiritually suggestive in treatment, and not a little that will enable the thoughtful reader to see more clearly the religious meaning of what many to-day would consider mere wonders and prodigies. The book is expository rather than critical. We do not think

there is any real foundation for so definitely limiting the meaning of our Lord's discourses in St. John vi. to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The true interpretation is, as Cranmer and Waterland long ago pointed out, the feeding on Christ, whether in or out of the Sacrament.

THE LAW OF HAMMURABI AND MOSES. By the Rev. W. T. Piltner. London: *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*. Price 2s.

Included in this little volume is an essay translated from the German of Professor Grimme, of Freiburg, together with a translation from the Babylonian of the laws discussed, and chapters on the history and archæology of the Hammurabi and Mosaic codes. The English editor has thus provided readers with a valuable introduction to the code of Hammurabi, and at the same time has enabled them to see the bearing of this recent discovery on the Mosaic Law and the Old Testament generally. This little work should be carefully studied by all who would know the relation of Hammurabi's code to Old Testament problems. The facts here brought forward will provide a number of considerations to enable students and readers to get at the truth about the Old Testament.

THE DATE OF ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS. By Douglas Round, M.A. Cambridge: *University Press*. Price 2s. net.

This essay, while accepting the South Galatian theory, argues for an earlier date than Sir William Ramsay is at present willing to allow. The author makes the Epistle come soon after the conclusion of St. Paul's first journey and before the Council of Jerusalem. We must refer our readers to the arguments on which this is based. It is an able, scholarly piece of work, and worthy of the most careful consideration. Mr. Round almost convinces us, especially in regard to the utter absence of any reference to the Council at Jerusalem in the Epistle to the Galatians. He certainly makes out a strong case, and his position will not be easily set aside.

THE AFTER LIFE. By Henry Buckle. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The author describes his book as "A Help to a Reasonable Belief in the Probation Life to Come," and he claims to base his position on Holy Scripture. We regret that we are quite unable to accept either the author's position or the treatment of Scripture on which it is said to rest. To take one instance only, we are told that 2 Cor. ix. 6 seems to point to two different spheres in the intermediate state where degrees of reward are reaped. There are many other passages where the exegesis is equally impossible. The author has doubtless spent very much time and trouble on this work, but we are compelled to say that we cannot regard it as of any real value as a contribution to the subject.

THE MAKING OF A PREACHER. By D. W. Simon, D.D. London: *Andrew Melrose*. Price 1s. net.

A little work by a leading Nonconformist who has recently retired from the principalship of a theological college. It is full of suggestions with regard to that part of the preacher's work which devolves upon the men themselves, and it is marked by the ripe fruits of true wisdom and profound

experience. If our theological students and young preachers would make their own the advice here given, the effect on the preaching of the future would be immediate and lasting. The counsel is so admirable and so well stated that we wish it could be elaborated into a larger work on the same subject.

FLOWERS AND TREES OF PALESTINE. By Augusta A. Temple. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 6s. net.

Those who have travelled in Palestine will have a special interest in this book, though all students of the Bible will welcome it, and put it among their books dealing with life in Palestine. Of the 180 pages, no less than 130 are occupied with a glossary descriptive of plants and trees in Palestine. The illustrations, forty in number, are from photographs taken by the authoress.

THE FREE-RHYTHM PSALTER. Edited by Francis Pott. London: *Henry Frowde*. Price 3s.

Every one knows the difficulty of getting a general congregation to join in the chanting of the Psalms, not merely because so few in the congregation are provided with the pointing, but also because when the pointed psalter is provided it is by no means easy to keep the congregation together. This new psalter represents an endeavour to point and accent the words with special regard to the true rhythm. The appearance of the book is very strange to those who are accustomed to the well-known pointing of ordinary psalters, and we are afraid that the system here advocated will never come into general use, because it virtually involves setting aside the Anglican chanting and adopting plain-song. It is, of course, quite easy for the editor to speak of the strict metrical constraint which the modern Anglican chant has imposed upon the psalter, but the vast majority of Churchpeople cordially dislike plain-song, and will never become accustomed to it.

A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PEOPLES. By Robinson Souttar, M.A., D.C.L. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 12s.

This volume is a continuation of a work previously published, entitled "A Short History of Ancient Peoples," and merits the favourable reception which was accorded to the earlier book. Within the limits of 661 pages the author deals with the Roman Empire from Augustus onwards, 363 pages being devoted to this subject, whilst the remainder of the work is devoted to the Saracens, the Crusades, and the Byzantine Empire. Compendiums of history rarely leave a favourable impression upon the mind of the student, the danger of "not being able to see the wood for the trees" being so generally felt. The student need have no such fear with regard to Dr. Souttar's book. Facts there are in abundance, but the writer, unlike many historians, is never overburdened by the material which he has at his disposal. His treatment is easy, yet virile, and one feels at all times that one is in the hands of a master. Such a work does not leave much room for generalizations, but whenever the author passes judgment, as he invariably does at the close of a reign or period, the judgment is keen, cutting away all sophistry and getting behind all contemporary prejudice. There is the same level of judgment, whether in summing up the character of Marcus Aurelius,

the "Emperor Stoic," or of the Byzantine Leo III.; the same impartial criticism in dealing with religious leaders, whether of the Christians of the fourth century or of the Crusades later; whilst the estimate of Mohammed and of Islam is both critical and judicious. We have very much enjoyed Dr. Souttar's book, and trust that the writer will carry on his work into later medieval times. The volume contains six excellent maps, in one of which, however (p. 447), there is an obvious slip.

CATECHISMS AND DEVOTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. By the Most Rev. Enos Nuttall, D.D. London: *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*. Price 6d.

While there is much that is valuable for use by parents and teachers, the views of the Sacraments and ministry are not exactly what we believe to be true to the Bible and the Prayer Book; but the purely spiritual and non-controversial teaching is admirable.

THE TRIAL OF JESUS. By the Rev. S. Buss. London: *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*. Price 2s.

The book opens with an account of our Lord's trial arranged consecutively from the four Gospels. Then comes a careful statement of the Jewish trial illustrated from the Mishna, followed by a similarly clear and full account of the Roman trial illustrated from Roman law. Readers will find this little book of real help and value in their study of the closing days of our Lord's earthly life.

A GUIDE TO JUNIOR ENDEAVOUR. Edited by M. Jennie Street. London: *Andrew Melrose*. Price 8d.

An introduction and eight chapters by several writers, who deal with various aspects of Christian Endeavour work amongst children. While it admirably fulfils the purpose for which it is specially intended, it may be consulted with profit by all workers amongst children.

#### PAMPHLETS AND PERIODICALS.

THE JOURNAL OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (April). London: *Henry Frowde*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

Two noteworthy articles appear in this number. One is a review of Dr. Swete's great work on the Apocalypse by Dr. Sanday; the other, "Prayer for the Departed in the First Four Centuries," by Dr. Swete. Dr. Sanday's article is a valuable contribution to the questions connected with the Revelation, and is full of the characteristic personal touches that are so welcome a feature in his writings. Dr. Swete's discussion reveals some striking facts connected with prayer for the dead. He shows that the first century and more than half of the second have practically no evidence for the custom, and that it is not until we get to the third century that prayer for the dead is known in connexion with the Church of Carthage. It will be a welcome testimony to many who are concerned for the purity of the Christian religion to be told on Dr. Swete's authority that "there is nothing to show that the dead were commemorated by name in *agape* or Eucharist during the Apostolic and sub-Apostolic periods." Those Churchmen are therefore not to be blamed who prefer to keep strictly to the practice of the primitive Church. The rest of this number is concerned with more technical subjects, except that there are some valuable reviews. Dr. Kidd reviews very favourably Lindsay's great work on the Reformation, and praise coming from this quarter is praise indeed.

CHURCH QUARTERLY REVIEW (April). London: *Spottiswoode and Co., Ltd.* Price 10s. per annum; single copy, 3s.

The first article is by the Rev. C. F. Rogers, and deals with the Education Question, giving certain foreign parallels which, it is thought, will help towards the solution of our

difficulties. Mr. Rogers favours the Canadian plan of allocating rates, but he does not face the practical difficulties of such a proposal. Canon Beeching writes on "The Revision of the Prayer Book: A Plain Man's View," and pleads for a permissive use of the vestments, refusing to accept the view that they imply the Roman doctrine of the Mass. The article fails at crucial points from lack of information on essential parts of the history, and it is surprising that the writer should speak of the vestments being prescribed by Cranmer for use in 1549 without the faintest reference to Cranmer's action in getting rid of them only three years after. This omission practically vitiates the entire argument. Other articles in this number are the "Christian Idea of Grace," by T. A. Lacey; "Congregationalism, Past and Present," by Rev. E. W. Watson; and "The Influence of the State in English Education," by Mr. M. E. Sadler. The short notices of books do not strike us as quite so well done as in former days.

**CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY REPORT, 1906-7.** London: *Church Missionary House*, Salisbury Square.

This large volume of over 900 pages is a very great storehouse of information on all things connected with the C.M.S. On each mission something of interest and value is said, and for speakers in particular there is a wealth of illustration, incident, facts, and figures. The maps are by no means the least important item in the volume, and in order to help workers there is a most welcome "Index of Special Topics," providing references to salient points of information in the report.

**LONDON SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIANITY AMONGST THE JEWS, Report 1906-7.**

All lovers of Israel should make a note of this volume, for they will find much to rejoice their hearts and encourage their faith.

**SOUTH AMERICAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY REPORT, 1906-7.**

South Africa has been called the neglected continent, and by comparison with other mission-fields this is doubtless true; but no one can speak of "neglect" in connexion with the S.A.M.S. Letterpress and pictures combine to provide topics of interest which will stir hearts to further prayer and effort. Speakers and preachers should not fail to consult this volume.

**SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION REPORT, 1906-7.**

Although the work of the Sunday-school Union is mainly associated with the Nonconformist Churches, there is very much in this report that will appeal to all who are interested in Sunday-school work. Not the least valuable of the Union's spheres of operations is its work on behalf of Continental Sunday-schools.

**MATRICULATION DIRECTORY, No. XLVII. (September, 1907).** Cambridge: Burlington House.

The latest issue of the University Tutorial Series, indispensable to all who wish to possess reliable and complete information about all things connected with the University of London.

**THE CHURCH GAZETTE (October).** London: *National Church League*. Price 2d.

This magazine is one of the most valuable of its kind, and we look forward to it month by month with great interest, for it is never without articles of permanent value, as well as of passing usefulness. The present number contains extracts from a recent address by the Dean of Canterbury on the report of the Royal Commission, and we wish every Churchman would give it most careful study. Dr. Kingsmill commences a series of articles on the "Life and Times of Bishop Jewel," which promise to be very useful. An article by Dr. C. A. Martin on the "Real Presence in the Holy Communion" deals acutely with the ambiguous use of the word "sacrament" by the Ritualists. The Rev. T. J. Pulvertaft writes on the "Need of Straightforwardness," and points the moral from some very significant evidence before the Royal Commission. The magazine appeals to all Churchmen, whether connected with the League or not.

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF APOCRYPHA.** London: 15, Paternoster Row. Price 6d. net.

The current number of this periodical, devoted to all things connected with the Apocrypha, contains an article by Canon Cheyne on Maccabæan Psalms, in which he tells us that he does not now hold the Maccabæan theory, though he "still has a tenderness for it." There are several other articles dealing with various topics of interest connected with the Apocryphal Books.

**WORK AND WITNESS:** The Official Organ of the Protestant Reformation Society. London: 57, Berners Street, W.

The first of a new series of the quarterly magazine of this Society, edited by Dr. Willoughby. The editor provides some valuable notes on current topics. There is a great deal of information about the work of the Society, and several articles dealing with particular aspects of the Protestant controversy. In its new form this magazine ought to have a successful career.

**THE OPTIMIST** (October, 1907). London: *Elliot Stock*, 62, Paternoster Row.

The subtitle reads rather quaintly—"A Review dealing with Practical Theology, Literature, and Social Questions in a Christian Spirit." The particular "Christian spirit," or attitude, of the magazine seems to be the combination of a very pronounced Socialism with a great deal of sympathy with what is known as Ritualism. The articles are useful, though not striking. Mr. G. W. E. Russell writes a characteristic one in opposition to the Bishop of Carlisle, and we may, perhaps, gauge the magazine pretty accurately from this and one or two similar articles.

**THE BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF DISCOVERIES ILLUSTRATING AND CONFIRMING THE OLD TESTAMENT.** By Canon Girdlestone. London: *Religious Tract Society*. Price 1d.

We are afraid the long title will hinder the sale of this most interesting and valuable booklet, which ought to be in the hands of all teachers of the Old Testament, and also distributed widely among members of Bible-classes.

**EVENING COMMUNION:** a Paper by the Rev. N. Dimock. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 3d.

A paper reprinted from the *Record*, and entitled "A Plea for its Candid Consideration." It is marked by all the author's scholarship, candour, clearness, and force, and will do great service to the cause of truth. We fear that its price (for 12 pp.) will be prohibitive to many.

**THE PASSOVER IN THE TIME OF CHRIST.** By the Rev. K. E. Khodadad. London: *London Jews' Society*, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Price 3d. net.

An interesting and popular discussion of the Passover as it was kept in the days of our Lord, with special reference to those manners and customs of the Jews which throw light on the institution of the Lord's Supper or elucidate difficult passages in the New Testament. This interesting pamphlet is commended heartily to the attention of all Bible students. It thoroughly fulfils the author's purpose.

**BIBLE STORIES FOR YOUNG READERS.** Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16. London: *James Henderson and Sons*. Price 1d.

These four latest issues of the Stories treat respectively the stories of Gideon, Ruth, Samson, and Samuel. The writing is well and simply done, but we cannot say that we like the illustrations, which are not at all worthy of the subjects, and might with advantage be omitted.

**PAN-ANGLICAN PAPERS.** No. 6: The Anglican Communion. By the Bishop of Gibraltar.

One of a series dealing with problems to be considered at the Pan-Anglican Congress next year.

**THE BOYLE SYSTEM OF VENTILATION.** London: *Boyle and Son*, Holborn.

All who are at all concerned with the proper ventilation of churches and other public buildings should make a point of studying this little compilation.

We have received an early copy of *Home Words* for January, which will then commence its thirty-eighth year, being by far the oldest parish magazine conducted continuously under one proprietorship. The present number includes two coloured plates, which are very effective, and there are two serial stories and several articles of interest. The illustrations are almost uniformly good, though a little too much decoration in red adorns many of the pages. It makes an attractive parish magazine, and we feel sure that those who adopt it will not regret doing so. The sheet almanac issued from *Home Words* Office is entirely different from those of former years. Instead of the usual, and it had seemed inevitable, red and black, we have gold ornamentation round pictures in a greyish-green tint. The centre picture is our Lord's great commission to "go and teach all nations," and at the foot of the picture are a number of the spires and towers of representative cathedrals of the Anglican Communion. This almanac will doubtless be in great demand.