

Literary Notes.

IN spite of the season of Christmas just passed, and the large amount of book-buying usually indulged in by all classes of people, there has not been that activity in the sale of books to which the publishers and the booksellers had been looking forward. The reason for this dulness has been hard to discover. Whether it is that such books as the cheap edition of Queen Victoria's Letters, Queen Alexandra's Book of Photographs, and the cheap edition of Mr. Gladstone's Life, militated somewhat against the sales of the Christmas Gift-Books, I would hardly like to say, although I did glean, at the time, many complaints concerning them. If it were so, it is somewhat to be regretted; for the bookseller's lot nowadays is not the happiest. In the old days, long since past, his existence was contentful, placid, philosophic, and literary. Now, as Mr. Dobson would say: "What's read at morn is dead at night." He moves with the same strenuous trend as belongs to the more commercial classes. He needs must to keep body and soul intact. Why, even the author—of course, one always expects the publisher to rush, seeing that *the* season, *i.e.*, the few weeks before Christmas, is more crowded with publications each year—produces his work, in a number of cases, "hot from the oven."



"Radium and Geology" is a new book by Professor John Joly, whose lecture to the Geological Section of the British Association created so much interest. Of course, radium as a source of heat for the earth is very important to geologists when considering the earth's age and its future. Professor Joly's book deals with the recent developments of the view that radio-activity has been a factor in geological dynamics, and will give in detail the results of his own investigations, which, in many respects, will mark a new epoch in the study of geology.



An historical work, which appears through Messrs. Constable, attempts to tell the story of the first part of the life and times of one of the most picturesque and remarkable men of the Middle Ages, Baldassare Cossa, who in 1410 became Pope John XXIII. The decay of Church reforms in the twelfth century, and the abuses which accompanied the Babylonish captivity, the schism and the rival Popes; the election, the early conciliar movement, and the point of view in regard to reform of great theologians—these are the subjects discussed by Mr. Eustace J. Kitts in this volume, entitled "In the Days of the Councils." The amount of intrigue and the complexity of interest involved, as well as the curious irony between the conscious and pretended aims of the leaders and their admirers in the struggle for power, all lend interest to these annals of the Papacy.



Mr. Elliot Stock is publishing an interesting work under the title of "Songs and Poems: Old and New," being a selection from the sonnets, romantic ballads, and poems of the late William Sharp, who was also known as "Fiona Macleod."

A series of translations of the Liturgies of the Christian Churches of the East is being published by Messrs. Cope and Fenwick. The first three volumes consist of the services in use in the Armenian, the Coptic (Egyptian), and the Russian Churches.



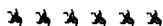
A considerable amount of fresh matter relating to George Borrow is to be found in Mr. R. A. J. Walling's new book, "George Borrow: the Man and His Work." Particular attention is paid to the time spent by Borrow in Cornwall, and his Cornish forbears. It is generally thought that the author of "Lavengro" was of Anglo-Saxon origin, and his interest in gipsy lore was, in consequence, something to wonder at; but as a matter of fact, as Mr. Walling points out, he was of Celtic origin, and this probably explains much in his life. There are three illustrations, one of which is a portrait, and the remaining two reproductions of portions of Borrow MSS.



It is an open secret that that striking book "Confessio Medici" was written by Dr. Stephen Paget, and when I read the work, a while since, one particular remark held my attention. The writer says that a doctor who wishes completely to understand his profession, and completely to enter into the view of the patient, must have himself suffered the pain both of an illness and of an operation. No medical man could consider his experience of any real and lasting value unless he had gone through the ordeal of being placed upon an operating-table. There is a deal of truth in this view. Dr. Paget has written several very readable volumes, and there is a new one announced dealing with the subject of mental healing. It is called "Faith and Works of Christian Science." A goodly number of inquirers for "Confessio Medici" confused it with "Religio Medici," by Sir Thomas Browne, which was quite excusable, and indeed not wholly unjustifiable.



Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. have in the press a volume on "Unemployment: a Problem of Industry," by W. H. Beveridge, Stowell Civil Law Fellow of University College, Oxford. Mr. Beveridge was formerly Sub-Warden of Toynbee Hall, and a late member of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London. He ought, in consequence, to have some expert knowledge of the problem which is exercising the minds of all serious thinkers. The title is very apt. There is, undoubtedly, genuine unemployment, and it is a problem which even the most casual onlooker of affairs must needs admit. But just how to cope with it, and just how to distinguish the real unemployed who are religiously and earnestly seeking work from those irresponsible derelicts who trade upon the innocence and the generosity of the tender-hearted, is to my mind not the least of the evils surrounding this ever-recurring difficulty.



The same firm are issuing "To Know and Believe: Studies in the Apostles' Creed," by John McGaw Foster, Rector of the Church of the Messiah, Boston (U.S.A.); and "The Historic Ministry and the Present

Christ: an Appeal to Unity," by Dr. Charles Lewis Slattery, another American rector.



The Rev. Dr. M'Clymont's volume in the Guild Library of the Church of Scotland, "The New Testament and Its Writers," which has already appeared in several languages, has now been translated into Dutch. The translator is M. van Empel, and there is added to the volume a commendatory note by Dr. van Veldhuizen. It is worthy of note that over 60,000 copies of the English edition have been sold.



Professor's Hume Brown's important "History of Scotland" now approaches completion. The Cambridge University Press, who are the publishers, announce the third volume, which concludes the work. I believe the work covers the period commencing with the Revolution in 1689 and reaches to the Disruption in 1843.



The new number of *The Classical Review* is a very interesting issue. Possibly it may surprise many to know that it completes the twenty-third volume. It proves that there is still a large measure of interest in things cultured and intellectual. This new number contains a careful survey of the evidence respecting the connection of Ægean civilization with Central Europe. There will also be an article by Professor Harry on "Agrippa's Response to Paul." This, in itself, should be to the reader of these notes a very attractive paper.



Some few months back Mr. Francis Bond gave us a very attractive book, both in point of text as well as of illustration, on "Screens and Galleries in English Churches." I believe it met with considerable success. He has now completed, and the Oxford University Press are to publish, a new and similar work on "Fonts and Font Covers." I saw it stated somewhere the other day that the subject has not been treated for more than sixty years, which, if such is the case, will make the volume doubly welcome. One thing is sure: Mr. Bond understands the art of making a volume interesting. He also makes a point of being thorough in his researches. In the new volume the text has been arranged in historical order, so as to indicate, in a kind of parallelism, the gradual modification of ritual and doctrine which obtained in the mode of administration of the rite of baptism, and the steady deterioration of its material surroundings. There are over 400 illustrations.



Mr. A. H. Diplock, who is a hard and persistent worker in various fields of literature, besides possessing a capital knowledge of contemporary French literature, has increased the value of a new impression of the "Kalender of Shepherds" by making selections from the original English text. This little work, which should find much favour, is an excellent reproduction of the famous medieval series of woodcuts illustrating pastoral occupations for the twelve months. They are facsimiles from the 1529 edition of this old calendar. It was called in French "Le Grant Kalandrier at Compost des Bergiers," and was originally printed at Troyes.

Professor Mahaffy is to make a sojourn in America, where he will deliver the Lowell Lectures on the "Value of Greek Studies to Modern Culture." He will also give one lecture at Yale and one in New York.



'Mr. Elliot Stock announces in a new style an edition of the well-known Commentary "The Biblical Museum." The work is of great value to preachers and Sunday-school workers of all denominations.



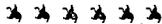
Messrs. Duckworth are commencing a new series entitled "Studies in Theology." The first volume will be "An Encyclopædia of Theology," by Principal Fairbairn.



A new work from the pen of Mr. John J. Ward, the well-known naturalist, is "Life Histories of Familiar Plants."



One of the most successful and attractive of books, among the many hundreds which appeared in December, was Mr. Eric Parker's admirable work on "Highways and Byways in Surrey," so beautifully illustrated by Mr. Hugh Thomson. No one has yet surpassed the particular genius of Mr. Thomson in his illustrated work.



1909 will be a year remarkable for the number of commemorations of great men. Here are a few: Poe, Mendelssohn, Darwin, Lincoln, Fitzgerald, Handel, William Pitt, Calvin, Tennyson, Dr. Johnson, and Gladstone.



Messrs. T. and T. Clark announce that Dr. Hastings' eagerly looked for one-volume "Dictionary of the Bible" is now all printed off and ready for publication. Unfortunately, issue on this side of the Atlantic has to be delayed (for copyright purposes) until the American edition is also ready, in January. This is an entirely new and original work. All the articles have been written by specialists, and bear their signatures. The volume extends to 1,000 pages.



Early in January Messrs. Longmans will publish the first four volumes of a new series of Anglican Church Handbooks which are intended to provide Church-people with a trustworthy account, in a cheap and readable form, of the most important aspects of the History, Faith, Worship, and Work of the Church. The volumes will be "Christianity and the Supernatural," by the Bishop of Ossory; "Social Work," by the Rev. Dr. W. E. Chadwick; "Pastoral Work," by the Rev. R. C. Joynt; "The Joy of Bible Study," by the Rev. Harrington C. Lees. Three or four more volumes will be ready in the spring, while several others are in active preparation. These handbooks are under the general editorship of the Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

M. C.