Notices of Books.


This little book consists of an article on "The Conception of Mana," which was read at the International Congress for the History of Religions last year, together with four other articles on various points of Comparative Religion republished from Folklore and other journals. The author has devoted no little study to his subject, but he writes in such a technical style that it cannot be said that his book is likely to be of general interest. Mr. Marett assumes as an axiom the view that the present beliefs of savages represent most nearly men's original ideas in matters of religion, and that religion in general has emerged from these or even less fully developed conceptions through a process of evolution. Sir W. Ramsay, Professor Sayce, and others, have shown that there is no real evidence that the "primitive savage" of this familiar theory ever existed. Until his existence has been proved, together with a few other postulates of the same school of thought, the expenditure of time in endeavouring to frame theories as to the sequence of ideas, moral and religious, in his mind, can hardly lead to any very practical result. Mr. Marett confesses: "For me the first chapter of the history of religion remains in large part indecipherable" (Preface, p. ix). He attributes to a feeling of "awe" a leading part in the production of religion. "Supernaturalism, then, as this universal feeling taken at its widest and barest may be called, might as such be expected to prove, not only logically, but also in some sense chronologically, prior to Animism" (p. 11). This does not differ very much, except in expression, from the theory of a Sensus numinis, and what Epicurus taught about an ἐπιθύμησις. We are warned that "no anthropologist, of course, has ever supposed himself able fully and finally to explain the origin of the belief in souls and spirits" (p. 6), and that "animistic interpretations have been decidedly overdone" by leading theorists (p. 30). Mr. Marett's contention that spells have gradually developed into prayer (pp. 99, 100) is probably the exact converse of the fact, as is clear from Hinduism, and even from corruptions of Christianity. Nor can we accept his dictum that "Ritual is religion's second nature" (p. 165), or, again, that "Buddhism is a standing example of an advanced type of religion that exalts the impersonal aspect of the divine" (p. 140). The subject of mana is one of great interest, as all who have studied Polynesian and Melanesian religion are aware. It denotes a kind of supranormal, mysterious, in some measure supernatural power or influence possessed by great chiefs, and sometimes by inanimate objects. Dr. Codrington and others have fully investigated the subject, and we cannot see that our author has thrown much further light on it.

W. St. Clair Tisdall.


The author's former book, "Studies in the Character of Christ," is so truly valuable that we anticipated the present work, which is its sequel, with
real pleasure; but while there is very much in it that is able and helpful, we are bound to confess that its fundamental position as to the Lord's Resurrection body does not seem to us to satisfy the conditions of the New Testament, to say nothing of our Articles. While rightly rejecting the modern view that the Resurrection was only the revival of Christ's spiritual influence which had been broken by death, Canon Robinson also sets aside the idea of physical resuscitation; and when confronted with the evidence of the empty tomb and the third day, he has no certain explanation to offer. He seems to favour some special method of getting rid of the body laid in the tomb, for which, of course, there is not the slightest evidence. He is far too much under the influence of modern thought about the continuity of nature to allow himself to do justice to the plain facts of the New Testament. Nor is it correct to say that "the Resurrection of Christ was an objective reality, but was not a physical resuscitation" (p. 12). This fails entirely to suggest any identity between the body as it was placed in the tomb and the Resurrection body, and thereby fails at the essential point of explaining what is meant by resurrection. The true statement would be that "the Resurrection of Christ was an objective reality, but was not [merely] physical resuscitation."
The chapter on Christ's own testimony to His resurrection is admirable for its clearness and force. So also the discussions on "the Lord's Resurrection," "the Witness of St. Paul," "the Gospel records," are well done and full of fine points aptly and forcibly made. Apart from Canon Robinson's view of the Resurrection Body, the book is an able summary of the arguments for the Resurrection, and deserves careful attention and study.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE LIFE ETERNAL. By George G. Findlay, D.D. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 10s. 6d.

We have hitherto known Dr. Findlay as one of our most valuable expositors of Pauline theology. We shall henceforth have to regard him as also one of the most welcome writers on things Johannine. In this large book we have a series of expositions of St. John's Epistles intended primarily for theological students and preachers, though it is almost equally serviceable for other readers who would know something of the deepest and most spiritual truths of the New Testament. Six chapters discuss various aspects of "Introduction," and the remainder of the book is then given over to a detailed exposition of the First Epistle. Those who have learned to value Dr. Findlay's former works will know what to expect here, and will not be disappointed. His treatment is at once scholarly, clear, able, sane, and spiritual. The reader feels that he is in the hands of a master, and can almost surrender himself to his leadership. On all the crucial questions of the Epistles, such as Propitiation, Antichrist, Sin, Assurance, the Three Witnesses, and Sin unto Death, Dr. Findlay has much to urge which will command attention, even if it does not always compel acceptance. Here and there the Methodist theologian appears, but even this will be worth reading, for comparison with other and, as we believe, truer views of sin and holiness. Space does not allow of our dwelling on particular points; it must suffice to say that no one who wishes to know and use the latest and best that has been said on this Epistle can overlook Dr. Findlay's work. It ought to be in constant use with Westcott's great Commentary.
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There is only one thing against this book, and that is its price. Otherwise, we have nothing but what is pleasant to say of it. Mrs. Hume-Griffith is the wife of an honoured C.M.S. medical missionary, Dr. Hume-Griffith, whose missionary labours at Mosul (close to the site of ancient Nineveh) are gradually but surely making themselves powerfully felt in that centre of Eastern life. There are a thousand and one things to contend against at Mosul—fanaticism, Roman Catholicism, and much ignorance and—dirt. Patiently, systematically, Dr. Hume-Griffith and his devoted wife are bearing down opposition, and winning the confidence and affection not merely of the Mosulites, but of the neighbouring peoples. This does not, of course, appear in the pages of this modest but delightful book, but some of us know what is going on behind the scenes. Dr. Hume-Griffith, in one of the chapters ("Persian Medical Missions") contributed to his wife's work, says frankly: "Medical missionary work is the golden key that unlocks the heart of the most fanatical Moslem. I write this deliberately, after eight years' experience in Persia, Palestine, and Mesopotamia." Mrs. Hume-Griffith describes her book as "an account of an Englishwoman's eight years' residence among the women of the East." The book, therefore, will appeal—and appeal widely, we hope—to the women of England (and they are many) who, by their efforts at home, are endeavouring to stimulate the missionary enterprise of the mother-land in the Far East. The volume gives us a glimpse, and more than a glimpse, of the life "behind the veil" in Persia and Turkish Arabia. La vie intime—this is what we have depicted in the pages of this really charming book.


"The doctor finds his sphere everywhere." This is a fair summing up of the contents of this book, which, apart from its interest as a record of missionary enterprise on the wild frontier of the north-west border of India, has a value of its own as an account—in some ways unique—of the experiences of keen and observant men of science among peoples that are still practically unknown to the outer world. The ethnologist, the student of comparative religion, the delver in legend and folklore, the psychologist—all these will find something to interest them in this work. Yet it is more than that, too; it is a real "human document," and as such will make (or ought to make) a wide appeal. Above all, it is a book which reflects the best side of modern Christianity; in other words, it is a truly missionary book. The love of God is manifested in it from beginning to end. That is why it breathes so fine a spirit of human kindness and sympathy. Everybody interested in missions ought to read it.
THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IN COMMON LIFE. By the late C. Bigg, D.D., Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford. London: Longmans, Green and Co. Price 6s. net.

By the death of Canon Bigg, the Church of England is the poorer, both intellectually and spiritually. Those in the outside world who knew of him mainly as a scholar, the author of the famous Bampton Lectures of 1886—lectures which Harnack deemed valuable enough to cause them to be translated into German—and of various other contributions to learning, will read this book with, it may be, something of surprise. Yes, but of pleased surprise. The sermons and addresses—thirty in all—which have been gathered together in this volume touch a number of vital questions, and touch them to fine issues. These are not in the main eloquent nor erudite, neither are they remarkable for any great brilliance of expression or profundity of thought; yet there is not one that is not, in its way, impressive. Indeed, that is the final effect that a perusal of these addresses leaves upon one—impressiveness. There is a note of reality about them which we are apt to miss sometimes in far more elaborate and self-conscious discourses. Dr. Bigg (says the Bishop of Oxford in his brief but admirable introduction) “took life seriously, and the pathos of life was constantly in his thoughts; yet, besides the sense of humour which often goes with such a cast of mind, he had a healthy cheeriness, a sincere and convincing hopefulness which made him the most encouraging of counsellors.” We have read few “sermons” that seem to us most genuinely helpful, in all manner of ways, than the seven addresses on “The Blessings and Trials of a Scholar’s Life,” with which this volume opens. To approximate to the spirit underlying these addresses is, in some measure, to master the secret of religion.


A brief but real contribution to the subject, presented in the delightful style always associated with the author’s name. First he examines the New Testament, then he reverts to the Old Testament. Then he discusses the doctrine in relation to the modern mind. His attitude may be described as orthodox, but not crude; his treatment suggestive rather than exhaustive; his verdict calm and convincing. No one knows better than he the value and need of the doctrine, and we feel sure that the method and results of his inquiry will go towards re-establishing the rationale of it in the modern mind. The book should be placed in the hands of those whose theological terms have been denuded of their significance by superficialists.

LIFE IN THE WORD. By Philip Mauro. London: Morgan and Scott. Price, cloth, 1s.; paper, 6d.

An able and earnest plea for the authority of the Bible as a living book. It is freshly written, with a constant and clear recognition of the grave issues at stake to-day in regard to the Bible as the Word of God. The power of Holy Scripture, as seen in its perennial freshness, permanence, and indestructible character, is well and ably stated, while other chapters discuss with equal force and suggestiveness the ideas connected with the Word of God as giving, sustaining, and transforming life. This little book has a distinct mission of its own.

The author of "The Reproach of the Gospel," reviewed not long since in our pages, requires no introduction to readers of the CHURCHMAN. If the present volume makes a less striking and moving appeal than the Bampton Lectures, the reason may perhaps be found in the fact that it is less organic in structure than the earlier book. Any volume of sermons, however much those sermons may be interconnected by a common thought running through them, is apt to seem a trifle discontinuous. And that is the impression that this volume—at least to some extent—leaves upon the mind. Yet, despite this, it is well worth reading; and nowhere is the book seen to better advantage than in the three chapters that deal with "Modernism," that most significant of movements in the Roman Church—a movement likely to influence profoundly the thought of the near future. There is a subtle danger, as well as a deep-seated truth, in the attitude of mind of which "Modernism" is the expression. Canon Peile notes the danger, while conscious of the truth. The book is singularly free from the twin taints of passion and of prejudice. We should be glad if this brief notice induces anyone to consider the book as it stands. If we find some things therein to which we cannot give a ready assent, we are not insensible of its charm and spiritual power.


The writer of this voluminous book lived to complete it in manuscript, but not to see it published. It must have cost the labour of many anxious years to produce a work at once so considerable alike in bulk and importance. It goes to the root of many of the causes that, unhappily, make for disunion in the Christian midst; its sub-title, "A Plea for the Restoration of the Ecclesia of God" is indicative of a good deal. Briefly, the author's method is to arrive at Christian unity by a process of detachment from ecclesiastical forms, as also by a thoroughgoing insistence on the need for a "Christ-life" in the "Church"—using that word in its widest and most comprehensive sense. In some respects, he seems to take up an attitude akin to that of the Brethren in their earlier (and better) days, before the spirit of doctrinal rivalry—with all the confusion involved thereby—ruined the true spirituality of a really remarkable movement. There is much with which we are bound to sympathize in the "plea" as formulated by the writer; much, too, with which, as convinced Churchmen, we cannot agree. But the spirituality of the writer's intention is beyond the reach of cavil; many of his criticisms are shrewd and penetrating; and, whatever our point of view may be, we shall be well advised to consider the historical and doctrinal discussions in the book with the care they deserve.


The first half of the manual is mainly concerned with self-examination, meditation, and preparation. The second half consists of the Communion
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Service, with explanations, comments, and suggestions. The tone in which the book is conceived is that manuals are too often morbid and depressing, self-introspective, and mournful. The writer has in view a victorious and joyous Christian life. He dislikes "experiments in penitential patent remedies." The American Prayer-Book Invocation of Holy Spirit in the elements is recommended, and a similar prayer in large type precedes the Prayer of Consecration. We doubt the desirability of this in view of what was done in 1552 as compared with 1549, and we do not like "Thou art in us now" after communicating. It is at least misleading, and easily becomes dangerous. But we do like to read that "Faith grows by the contemplation of its great object," and that "we are dealing with a Saving Victor rather than a saving Victim"; and that "we are not preparing to approach a Victim's altar, but to go to a feast." We should like to have seen the relation of the Sacrament to the death of Christ more clearly propounded in view of Reformation doctrine and our Articles; but for much that is healthful, encouraging, and marked by a message of power, we are grateful. We are convinced that the author's attitude to introspection and morbidness in connection with the Holy Spirit is the only right and healthy one.


Mr. Dawson writes this "story with a purpose" after his usual style. That style is intended to arrest attention, and we think that attention can hardly help being arrested by the book in question. It is cast somewhat on the plan of "When it was Dark," though with very significant differences; for while we trace, in the one book, a gradual extinction of the world's hope because the faith that buoyed that hope has been removed, in the other we trace the coming of a newer and fuller realization of the Christian ideal, through the "coming" of Christ into the modern life. The book is very well worth reading, and cannot fail to do good.


A volume of sermons by the late minister of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, New York, who, as Professor Hugh Black explains in an introduction, was removed by an early death. The sermons are strenuous and straight. Combined with a modern practical outlook, the preacher was not afraid to "speak out." Among the titles are: "Religion and Business," "Does it Pay?" "Why attend Church?" "A Plea for the Simple Life," "The Biography of a Soul," "Religion in Homespun." A volume of excellent sermons which go to the heart of things.


The Rev. F. S. Guy Warman, Principal of St. Aidan's, Birkenhead, has brought out this valuable volume of sermons preached before the University of Oxford by the late Canon Heurtley, Margaret Professor more than half a century ago, and has prefaced them with an introduction. The sermons are well worth reprinting, and we are very grateful to Mr.
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Warman. They present a positive statement of what true, as opposed to false, sacramental teaching may be made in the hands of a Christian scholar of the last generation who lived through the Tractarian movement in the heart of the University of Oxford without being led aside by it.


A most attractive reprint; more charming, if possible, than the original edition. Dr. Edersheim's name is sufficient guarantee of its excellence. The book embodies the studies of many years of this learned Hebrew Christian, and is indispensable to those who wish for a reliable and graphic account of the subject.

THE ART OF PREACHING. By Harold Ford, LL.D. London: Elliot Stock. Price 2s. 6d. net.

There are plenty of good things to be found in this small book; and everyone who has to preach would be well advised to read it.

THE CHURCH'S SONG. By T. S. Lindsay, B.D. Dublin: Association for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1908.

This book is intended to be a companion to the Irish Church Hymnal. We almost wish the writer could have waited until the revised edition of that Hymnal—a revision that is greatly needed—had appeared; but otherwise the book is all one could wish. In brief compass a really vast amount of interesting information is collected; and the book, despite its obvious limitations, is one that would prove a valuable companion to any good collection of hymns. The errors are few, so far as we have tested the volume; one, however, may fitly be corrected in any reissue: Mr. Midlane, the author of "There's a Friend for Little Children," did not die, as reported, in 1906, but since Mr. Lindsay's book was published—in fact, early this year.


The writer speaks with authority, and entirely from the Christian standpoint. His statement is simple, clear, and comprehensive, and will commend itself to thoughtful Christian men.


These memorials of a past ministry are of value from a sermonic point of view. There are some seventy-six sermons in all upon various cardinal Bible truths. They appeal to us strongly as full of thought, knowledge, and faithfulness to God's Word, as well as ripe spiritual experience.

KIRI. By E. S. Karney. London: Morgan and Scott. Price 1s. 6d.

This autobiography of a mongoose, who was determined "to know everything," is well worth reading. Many humans do not possess its knowledge of missionary work. The boys and girls will like this way of getting to know something of the work done at and about Anaradhapura.
FAIRY TALES OF FAR JAPAN. By Susan Ballard. Religious Tract Society. Price 2s. 6d.

This second edition is a proof of the value and appreciation of Miss Ballard's translation of Japanese fairy stories. The late Mrs. Bishop writes a strongly commendatory preface.


The adventures of a small boy as a goose, a fox, a doormouse, etc., and the initiation he gets into the secrets of Nature, are delightfully told. The book will cultivate a taste for nature-study in boys and girls, and delight that taste if already acquired.


The story of a Christian lad of gentle birth, his difficulties, and his victory. It should prove a stimulus to boys going out into the world, and we wish we could feel that the hero was not "beyond his years" in his life and conversation. Much religious truth is to be found in the story.


This epic, in three cantos, dealing with the days of the Flood, is thoughtful, reverent, and musical. The writer has a poetic gift, imagination, and respect for God's Word.


A record of architectural and personal interest. The Church of Leigh Richmond, and native place of C. L. Higgins, one of Dean Burgon's "Twelve Good Men," will be sure to find interested readers. All that is worth knowing of the place and its associations will be found in these pages.


We like these lines based on various texts of Scripture, and full of harmony and Gospel-teaching. The title is a true index of the contents, and should minister to that "entering into rest," which is the very fruit of faith. The writer is no mean hymnologist.


These sonnets and songs on incidents of our Lord's life will prove helpful, and are full of thought and devoutness. Sometimes we feel them to be a little obscure, and not always smooth, but there is always comfort and strength and suggestion in them. The love of Christ has kindled the writer's muse.

THE FULNESS OF CHRIST. By the Bishop of Southwark. London: Macmillan and Co. Price 1s. 6d.

Christ is the unifying force of these fine discourses, which are full of thought and spirituality. The writer is sure that Christ, who speaks to every age, has an especial message to our own. In the world of action and thought all touch all, and Christ touches each. The need and truth of the Incarnation and Atonement were never so needed as now, and Christianity alone, by "intrinsic content," is the religion of the world.

PAMPHLETS, PERIODICALS, AND REPRINTS.


We announced last month the publication of this cheap edition, and now we need only call our readers' attention to it. It is not only remarkable value for the money, but it is a trustworthy and interesting account of a period and a school of the Church of England with which we all ought to be thoroughly familiar.


We give a hearty welcome to this new revised and cheap edition. Canon Barnes-Lawrence has provided us with one of the very best modern manuals on the Lord's Supper. It combines definite teaching with real spirituality in a very helpful way, and for use among educated, thoughtful Confirmation candidates we know nothing to equal it. We hope it will have in this cheap form the wide circulation and usefulness which it so richly deserves.

Messrs. Nelson continue to place us under obligations month by month by their attractive issues. Dean Hole's book about the garden is one of his best, and will delight everyone who has or loves a garden. Mrs. Humphry Ward's books are always welcome for their powers in story-telling as well as for their thoughtfulness, however much we may find ourselves in disagreement.


This issue is a double number, and contains the Annual Report of the Church Missionary Society Medical Missions Association. All who are interested in medical missions will find an amount of interesting and valuable material in these pages.


Invaluable to all who desire information about the University of London.


A brief hymn suitable for congregational use. It is printed on a large card.

LONDON BY NIGHT. London: Iliffe and Son, Ltd. Price 2d.

Several remarkable "snapshots" of London life, taken at night, showing moving figures and traffic. Very striking and well worth attention.


A very remarkable speech by one of China's leading statesmen. It is not surprising that the utterance has made a profound impression, and in this form it ought to be circulated far and wide, and so help onward the cause of national righteousness.


The preservation of newspaper cuttings is often a great problem, but here is one way, and a very good way, of solving it. The volume consists of a well-bound set of fifty strong manilla envelopes, numbered consecutively with a lettered index. It thus provides a receptacle for cuttings and other extracts which might otherwise be lost or mislaid. We have proved its usefulness by personal experience, and we heartily commend it to all who are called upon to speak or write.


A thoughtful and earnest plea, delivered as an address at a meeting of the C.E.T.S.


Some plain, strong, thoughtful words by an eminent doctor, specially adapted for private circulation amongst young men.

We have received from the Rev. W. H. Berry, of Ipswich, some booklets and stamps intended for increasing attendance at Sunday-schools. The scholars are given booklets, and each Sunday an adhesive stamp bearing a text of Scripture is given to fix in the provided space in the books. Parents are thus enabled to see the attendance of their children, while in other ways as well the plan is calculated to accomplish the desired end of regular attendance. A good many schools have already adopted the method, and have proved its value. We have no doubt that if representations were made the originator would be prepared to provide stamps specially adapted for use in Church of England Sunday-schools, including the Festivals of the Christian Year, in the scheme. The stamps and booklets may be obtained from the Rev. W. H. Berry, 20, Brooks Hall Road, Ipswich, price 1d. per sheet of seventy-two stamps ready for use, and booklets 2s. per hundred plain, or 10s. per hundred in stiff cover. We commend the idea to clergy and Sunday-school superintendents.