Notices of Books.

Confirmation in the Apostolic Age. By the Right Rev. Bishop Chase.
London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. Price 2s. 6d.

Anything coming from the pen of the Bishop of Ely deserves and demands the most careful consideration, and we therefore took up this little book with no ordinary interest. In discussing the subject of the title the Bishop endeavours to limit his attention to the New Testament in order to review the evidence therein supplied as to the place of Confirmation in the life and thought of the Apostolic Church. He says that the two great momenta of the Christian dispensation are the Incarnation and Pentecost, and that these are brought into contact with the individual in Baptism and Confirmation. The Divine side in the Sacraments is the essential thing, and Dr. Chase considers that the ratification of baptismal vows is only an accidental element in our Confirmation Service. He comes to the conclusion that Confirmation had a recognized place in Apostolic Churches, and consisted of two essential elements: prayer for the Holy Spirit, and the outward sign of benediction by the laying-on of hands. This laying-on of hands was the work of Apostles, and led to the Apostolic gift of the Holy Spirit. We naturally turned with particular interest to see how the Bishop would deal with the episode of Ananias and St. Paul, and we find that he hesitates to regard this laying-on of hands as a formal act of Confirmation (p. 30). He can only arrive at his conclusion about this work being limited to Apostles by regarding the case of Ananias as "abnormal," and for the purpose of the argument of this book to be set on one side (p. 109). This is not reassuring, because a principle which admits of such an exception does not strengthen the case for the Bishop's contention, but in reality tends to undermine it. Another consideration which is vital to the author's position is that Confirmation is essentially the same now as in Apostolic days, from which we are to understand that Bishops now represent the Apostles in regard to Confirmation. But this is exactly what one great historical authority, Professor Gwatkin, says is not the case, and, so far as we can discover, there is no adequate and valid historical evidence for so close and essential a connection between Apostles and Bishops. Dr. Chase apparently interprets all instances of the laying-on of hands found in the New Testament of Confirmation, in which way he would also explain the "sealing" of Ephesians i. Indeed, if the exegesis of this book is true, Confirmation was a very much more prominent feature in the Apostolic Church than the vast majority of scholars of all schools have been accustomed hitherto to see. But we cannot for a moment think that the Bishop has made out his case, or that it will commend itself to the judgment of the majority of exegetical and historical scholars. On particular passages there is very much that is suggestive and helpful in comment, and, apart from the main contentions of the book, there is no little spiritual profit in the teaching. But, taking the book as a whole, we are compelled to say that it is not convincing, for it does not accord with the most natural exegesis of the New Testament, and the most obvious interpretation of the history of the Apostolic Church. And, certainly, the view here given of our Church of England rite of
Confirmation, and the criticisms on our Service, would seem to show that the position adopted is not warranted by the best authorities on the history and contents of our Prayer-Book.


This is another of those scholarly works for which we are so much indebted to Dr. Oesterley. It deals with a subject of no slight interest, and one of which the author has made himself thoroughly master—the doctrine of Mediation in Jewish literature, ancient and modern. Those of us who have made excursions into Rabbinical writings can appreciate the zeal and energy and patience that have led Dr. Oesterley to wade through so much that is certainly not in itself attractive in style, language, or matter, in order to discover what these writers thought on such a momentous subject. After a brief account of the Old Testament teaching regarding Mediation, the author deals ably with what is said about the matter in the Apocrypha and the Pseudepigrapha, the Targums, later Rabbinical literature, and the Jewish Prayer-Book. He then treats of the modern Jewish attitude towards the doctrine, dealing separately with the Orthodox, the Reform, and the semi-Reform parties. He shows that "in respect of the doctrine of Mediation, historic Judaism offers much that tends in the direction of Christianity," and that only after their rejection of Christ did the Jews develop their thoughts in quite another direction. The teaching of the Pseudepigrapha (Enoch, Testament of Abraham, etc.) is strikingly summed up in pp. 48, 49. Our authors deals lucidly with the Metatron (μεταθρόνος), the Memra-doctrine, the "Paraclete" in Jewish literature. In summing up his conclusions he traces belief in Mediation to man's conception of God and his sense of sin (p. 187), whence the doctrine must inevitably rise in some form. Regarding modern Judaism Dr. Oesterley's language is both frank and courteous. We have been struck with the almost Mohammedan character of Rabbinical Judaism. The appendices are very full of information, and there is a good index.

W. St. Clair Tisdall.


Another missionary book by Miss Carmichael, whose former works have been so fruitful in blessing. This time she depicts the little temple children of India, whom she appropriately calls "Lotus Buds." In the course of thirty-six fascinating chapters she brings before our minds the sadness and horrors connected with child-life, and at the same time the glorious possibilities of the same childhood when brought under the influence of loving, Christlike missionary effort. Miss Carmichael wields a graphic pen, and all lovers of children, to whom in particular the book is dedicated, will be greatly interested in this account of missionary effort for Christ's little ones. The sadness of their condition goes right to the heart, while the hopefulness consequent upon missionary effort stirs us to prayer and sympathy. The get-up of the book is very attractive, and fifty finely executed photogravures add immensely to its value and beauty. As a missionary gift-book it stands in the front rank, while for workers it will be
found full of intensely interesting and valuable material. We heartily commend it to our readers as one of the most fascinating missionary books that we have had for some time.

London: Methuen and Co. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This volume forms one of a series of Handbooks of English Church History—under the general editorship of the Rev. J. H. Burn—designed to cover the period of English Church history from its beginning up to the close of the eighteenth century. The present work embraces the years 1135-1485, and forms a useful and reliable guide to the events preceding the Reformation. The interest in these three and a half centuries of Church history really centres on the critical problem respecting the relation between the English Church, King, and Papacy to the English nation. At one moment the struggle between the Church and Crown forces a union between the Crown (John) and the Papacy, and compels the Church to unite with the nation, as in the struggle for Magna Charta. At another time the Church is alienated from both the Crown and Papacy, and assumes the constitutional leadership of the nation as evidenced by the reign of Henry III.; but in the closing years of the thirteenth century both Crown and Church compete for the nation’s confidence, which is given to the Crown (1301). It is this which forces the Church into a Papal attitude, compels it to become less national, and consequently leaves it helpless before the Crown at the Reformation. The underlying causes which ultimately produced this result are well worked out in the handbook by Mr. Jennings. He treats his subject in a dispassionate way, but with the sureness of one who has a thorough knowledge of the period. There are a couple of obvious misprints in dates on p. vii, Introduction, and p. 142.

**THE REFORMATION PERIOD.** By the Rev. Henry Gee, D.D. London: Methuen and Co. Price 2s. 6d. net.

In this book we have the succeeding volume to the above, embracing the period from the accession of Henry VII. to the death of Elizabeth. It is needless to state that the name of Dr. Gee is a guarantee for wide knowledge of the original authorities on this important period, and he has here produced a work which will commend itself to a large circle of readers owing to its impartiality. We would not therefore necessarily endorse every conclusion of the learned author. His defence of the monasteries, for instance (pp. 88-89), might be rebutted by the obvious answer that such foundations were out of date from whatever point of view we care to regard them—religious, social, or educational. The fact that the number of monasteries built in the years preceding the sixteenth century had dwindled away practically to nothing is a sufficient guarantee that people had lost faith in them. Nor, again, can we follow him when he declares, in his review of the medieval Church (p. 26), that “the daily and nightly offices of the Church were in like manner acts of praise and prayer to God, and it did not matter much if those present failed to catch the telling force of Psalm and hymn and lection in their significant juxtaposition so long as the office was duly sung to the glory of God.” Possibly Dr. Gee means us to understand that this was the medieval
conception concerning "the daily and nightly offices of the Church"—for we cannot understand how the office could be sung "to the glory of God" without there being intelligence on the part of those singing or listening. A little more explicitness in wording would doubtless make the author's meaning clearer. Again, on p. 79, Dr. Gee quotes Professor Pollard to the effect that "the submission of the clergy had been effected in the form of a writ in 1532, and this had been signed by Convocation and confirmed in the Commons." He continues: "The Lords threw it out when the Bill then came up to them. The more complaisant Parliament of 1534 passed the Bill at once." We consider that the author should give some detailed proof for the statement of Professor Pollard, because it contravenes the usually accepted course of events, whilst the statement as to the "more complaisant Parliament of 1534" is misleading, since the Reformation Parliament sat from 1529 to 1536. But in spite of these and one or two other places where the writer has laid himself open to criticism by his vague wording, the work of Dr. Gee comes up to the aim of the editor, who conceived the series in "no narrow spirit of partisanship," but with a desire "to do justice to all parties, whether religious or political." We are often asked for a handbook on the English Reformation: here is one which can be recommended for its general accuracy, fairness, and sympathy, which are especially essential in dealing with this important period.

**Genesis Unveiled:** Anonymous. London: James Nisbet and Co. Price 3s. net.

This little volume is the work of the author of "God's Week of Creation Work," and "The World's Week of Human History." The author employs Bishop Hellmuth's version of Genesis instead of the Authorized or the Revised Version. The book is written in a very reverent spirit, in which it stands in striking contrast to many modern works on the subject. We confess our inability to agree with many of the author's arguments and conclusions, but we most heartily agree with the following: "The Bible is indeed a Book containing depths as yet unsounded, and indeed unsoundable, but . . . never will those depths be even seen at all by those who approach it in an irreverent . . . spirit" (p. 230).


The six lectures of which this book consists are in Dr. Campbell Morgan's best style. They deal with the Fourfold Commission—the Authority of the King, the Evangel to Creation, the Witnesses, the Remission of Sins—and the Fourfold Resource and Responsibility. After a course of reading many modern theological books imbued with a very different spirit, it is refreshing to come upon a work so full of reverence and spirituality, marked by love for, and knowledge of, a personal, living, loving Saviour. The harmony which pervades the variety in the fourfold Gospel presentation of Christ (pp. 8-12) is clearly pointed out. What is said about the proclamation of the Gospel to the Kosmos (pp. 13, 14, 68 et seq.) is well worthy of consideration. Those of us who have studied the present condition of the world will agree that Humanity's "first necessity" to-day"
that of Authority. . . . The supreme need of the world is the enunciation of an ethic which is binding and authoritative, and which gives a clear revelation of what sin is” (p. 17). Dr. Morgan’s explanation of “I know Him, whom I have believed,” etc., is well worthy of careful consideration, all the more so because it differs from the ordinary view of its meaning (pp. 30, 31). Though we may learn much from the study of Comparative Religion, and this new science may even help in mission-work, yet it needs to be borne in mind that “we are not sent to men to discuss with them the relative value of their religions. . . . Our supreme business is to preach Christ crucified and risen” (p. 123). We have nothing but praise for this scholarly and spiritual little book.


The object of this interesting little work is to show how well the Biblical account of creation harmonizes with the facts revealed to us by geological science. In the conviction that this is so, Mr. James agrees with Dana and Sir W. Dawson. At a time when even men occupying high positions in the Church are not ashamed to declare that “the first chapter of Genesis is not science,” a handy little volume like this, written by a man of science, will be very useful. Chancellor Lias well says in the Introduction: “It will be found extremely difficult to discover in what way the simple recital of facts with which the Bible commences is inconsistent with the conclusions of science as stated in this work.” By a slip of the pen the author (p. 79) speaks of the Fall of Jerusalem as occurring “seventy years” after our Lord’s prophecy of that event, instead of “70 A.D.”

Devotional Hours with the Bible. By J. R. Miller, D.D. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 5s.

This volume, which begins with the crossing of the Red Sea and closes with David’s life, is full of help and suggestion. Leaders of Bible-classes will find many a useful illustration and quotation in these pages, and the spiritual teaching is what we have always been accustomed to expect from Dr. Miller. In an age that multiplies homiletic commentaries, of more or less value, this will take its place as among the most helpful.


The purpose of this book is to give “practical suggestions and exercises for building the body, the voice, the vocabulary, for training the memory and imagination, and for the general development of power and personality in the speaker.” To this end we are reminded of the value of power and personality as the essentials of true success. Then come chapters on “How to Develop Physical Power, the Voice, and the Imagination,” “How to Build a Vocabulary,” “How to Train the Memory,” “Power in English Style,” “Extemporaneous Speaking, Conversation, Illustration, and in Holding an Audience.” There is a long list of selections from various authors for study and practice. The book comes quite evidently from a teacher of thorough and varied experience, and it seems to us to be one of the very best of its kind. We envy the beginner who can commence his ministry under the
NOTICES OF BOOKS


This essay aims at refuting two prevalent antitheistic theories—Naturalism and Agnosticism—and then tries to show the reality of spirit and spontaneity in man and in the universe, and thereby to prove the rational necessity of theism. If it be asked why another book on this subject is needed, the author replies that as the arguments for theism must necessarily be more or less philosophical, and many educated men have very little acquaintance with philosophy, it seemed worth while trying to state the philosophical arguments in a way which an educated man could understand without requiring a previous training in the terminology of metaphysics. The author has achieved his purpose splendidly. Within the compass of 160 small pages he has provided us with one of the clearest and most convincing pieces of argument we have read for a long time. The book ought to be in great request among clergymen and teachers. It will provide them with a perfect arsenal of apt quotation and forcible arguments. We have read it with great interest and profit, and shall constantly use it in our work.


This valuable booklet on the fact, signs, effects, and hastening of the second coming of our Lord should be widely read. It is the work of a deep student of God's Word, and a shrewd observer of events. It is a call to increased prayer and watchfulness.


No one has a better right or gift for discussing foundation truths than Dr. Pierson. What he has to say on repentance, faith, wisdom, and love is worth reading, marking, and inwardly digesting. To build a holy life we must secure a deep foundation. All that we need for that is to be found here.

CHRIST IN DAILY LIFE. By Adelaide M. Cameron. London: H. R. Allenson. Price 1s. 6d. net.

In this tasteful little volume we have a consecutive life of our Lord, so as to get the story of stories in its entirety. Each day has its portion of His life for reading and meditation. In the rush of life a record of the Gospels so arranged cannot but prove good and illuminating.

GOD'S WEEK OF CREATION WORK. By F. W. H. London: James Nisbet and Co., Ltd. Price 2s. 6d. net.

The author writes to prove that the idea of this earth having been created and made in six days of twenty-four hours each is not only not Scriptural, but entirely un-Scriptural. Such a view was not held by the early Church, but is rather a product of the Dark Ages when men were without astronomical knowledge. While we may not be able to accept all the arguments adduced in favour of this contention, we believe the writer makes out his case, and for this reason the book is well worthy of careful study.


This is an open letter written in a free-and-easy style to an agnostic friend. Its burden is that England to be happy needs a new power. There is nothing wrong with Christianity, only with Christians. Repentance, Faith, and Baptism are needed, the last as the expression of the other two. Christianise the Church is the sum and substance of all.
NOTICES OF BOOKS

THE LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. By Dr. Marcus Dods, Dr. J. Denney, and Dr. J. Moffatt. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 1s.

These chapters, written by spiritual scholars, were originally published in the British Weekly, which opened its columns to correspondence on the subject. They give us the right view-point in the whole matter, and will prove valuable to the sane Christian who observes a proportion in his faith, while the extremist interpretation is shown to fail.


This is a book of prayer and thanksgiving for family and private use. The Archbishop of Canterbury writes an introduction in terms of praise. Many sources are drawn from, and the choice of subjects is of widest range.

A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE. Compiled by Honoria Galwey. London: S.P.C.K, Price 1s. 6d.

This is to recall to our minds our dear ones at rest; Scripture, sacred poetry, and suitable quotations are gathered here in helpful and appropriate fashion for each day in the year.


This is an MS. book of private prayer to encourage method in prayer, thanksgiving, and the formation of spiritual habits. It is excellent in arrangement and suggestion.

THE LORr'S TREASURES. By Mrs. H. Kelly. London: Elliot Stock. Price 1s. 6d.

These Bible talks with the children are good. There are nineteen of them, and they will help the Sunday-school teacher as well as the conductor of children's services.


This is one of "the Little Books of Religion," and is a most delightful companion, full of freshness and suggestion. The Second Chance, the Second Blow, the Second Thought, the Second Wave, the Second Place, and the Second Watch, form its subjects.


This is a precious shilling's worth. It is the work of a seer, and his vision penetrates to the depths. Admittedly the spiritual side—what he calls the argument "from photograph rather than fact"—is neglected. Linguistic knowledge and patristic research cannot give a man eyes. Eyes are necessary for the appreciation of this portrait. He revolutionizes current ideas, and makes the Gospel of St. John the bridge to the synoptists. He compares St. Paul and St. John, and finds their main teaching identical. He finds for us in the Fourth Gospel a progress in thought and appeal. He finds in the Evangelist's choice of his materials the marks of his characteristics. In fine, he transforms the arguments against the Fourth Gospel into shining witnesses. In these days of limited vision and restricted specialization, this is just the point of view that needs emphasis.


A reprint of a volume of sermons formerly issued by Isbister and Co. under the title "Labour and Sorrow." They are noble and elevating discourses, characterized even in the printed page by the eloquence for which the preacher is famed. An earnest zeal is everywhere apparent to raise the ideals of men and to point them to Christ and to spiritual realities. Hence there is a strong perception of the sins and weaknesses of human life. There is also a tender insight and sympathy with the deeper perplexities of man's experience, as in the sermons "The End of Sorrow," "Love and Sorrow," "The Soul and its Perplexities." The preacher brings frequently into his view the beauty of the natural world, and claims the painter, poet, and musician for religion. The phrase "Catholic" occurs too frequently, and a "Sacramental" sentence or two is characteristic of the Tractarian school of thought.

NOTE.—In our review last month of "The Bible and the British Museum," by Miss Ada R. Habershon, the price should have been stated as 2s. 6d. net.
PERIODICALS, PAMPHLETS, AND REPRINTS.


This welcome and indispensable volume again tells its remarkable story of the work and ramifications of the Church of England. It should be in the hands of every Churchman for frequent use. In view of the official character and sanction of the book, we think the Editor's preface could be dispensed with, since it is very largely occupied with personal views alone.


The first article on "Modern Mysticism," by the Bishop of Ossory, is, like everything Dr. D'Arcy writes, illuminating and suggestive. Archdeacon Sherlock commences the story of the Revision of the Irish Prayer-Book. Archdeacon Cunningham propounds the question whether it is possible for a Free Trader to be a good citizen. Dr. T. S. Berry discusses the Atonement, following Westcott's inadequate and unsatisfactory view. We are glad to call attention to this useful Quarterly of the Sister Church.


This number is naturally occupied very largely with Good Friday and Easter topics, and its various departments of Church thought and life are well maintained. Preachers will find plenty of suggestions in these pages.


The Quarterly Magazine edited by Dr. Willoughby, who invariably provides valuable material for all who are concerned with the progress and reformation of Churchmanship.

**The Churchman's Pulpit.** Edited by the Rev. J. H. Burn. London: Francis Griffiths. Price 1s. 6d. net per part.

This work, which will be published in weekly parts, has been prepared for the use of clergymen in their pulpit work. About thirty sermons are provided for each of the Sundays and for the Holy Days in the calendar, and the editor believes that it will contain all the homiletic material that a preacher is likely to need in a lifetime of ministerial duty. It claims to be the most complete and weighty work of its kind ever offered to the clergy. All sorts and conditions of preachers are laid under contribution, and with equal impartiality the editor has endeavoured to include all legitimate "schools of thought." It is hoped that clergy will find new and suggestive material in these pages to enable them to impart freshness and interest to their sermons. Used with great care and constant discrimination, the work ought to prove serviceable to busy and overworked clergy.


Fifty more volumes of this attractive library have just been published, including such valuable additions as Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" (in two volumes), Spenser's "Faerie Queene," Thackeray's "Pendennis," Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" (first three volumes), Macaulay's "Essays," and volumes by Balzac, Dumas, Victor Hugo, and Hawthorne. To our readers perhaps the most interesting and valuable will be the "First and Second Prayer-Books of Edward the Sixth" in one volume, with a preface by the Bishop of Gloucester, though the concluding words of the Bishop will not be generally acceptable. He remarks that subsequent revisions have done much to stamp our Prayer-Book with a far more Catholic character than it possessed when it left Cranmer's hands. Such great scholars as Dimock and others have proved conclusively the essential doctrinal agreement of Cranmer with our Prayer-Book to-day. Of all the modern reprints, "Everyman's Library" is the best known, and certainly one of the most attractive. Six millions, we are told, have already been sold, and the series is already well on the way to the realization of the publishers' ambitions of one thousand volumes. Whatever we may think of the choice or substance of the books, they are eminently worthy of attention and it is a bare duty to commend them to our readers.
NOTICES OF BOOKS


The newest issues of Messrs. Nelson’s charming and attractive series. The varied choice and the unflagging regularity of issue make these series of particular interest.


A scholarly and suggestive contribution to one of our modern problems of revision. Provost Staley considers the present Lectionary “thoroughly unsatisfactory.”


A reissue of one of the most striking of modern poems. We are exceedingly glad to have it in this dainty form, and we call attention to it with the greatest possible pleasure. In spite of a few jarring notes which are not true to the great Apostle, Myers’ interpretation is one of the finest we possess.


An earnest and urgent plea for the increase of the Episcopate, which will be welcomed by all who believe in the writer’s thesis.

THE CHURCH ARMY BLUE BOOK. London: Church Army Headquarters, 55, Bryanston Street, W.

The twenty-eighth Annual Report of the varied and interesting work of the Church Army.


The Bishop of Newcastle writes an introduction to these clear and helpful notes. Each page is to be torn off and given to the candidates before or after each lecture. The teaching is thoroughly true to the Bible and Prayer-Book. Clergy should make a special note of these admirable suggestions.


A useful compendium of facts which should be circulated widely to counteract a serious error.


One of the ablest statements, within a brief compass, of the case against incense in our Church. Nothing could be more convincing.


One of the Occasional Papers of the Eastern Church Association. A useful guide for all who wish to know what Eastern Christianity really is.


The prayers are drawn chiefly from the Prayer-Book, and the book is an attempt to make the Prayer-Book prayers applicable for the family and household. The Bishop of Southampton heartily commends it to the notice and consideration of Church-people. A useful little help.


This consists of readings from Scripture, prayers from the Prayer-Book, and suggestions for private prayers. A very convenient and appropriate help for those who attend the three hours’ service.

RECEIVED.—PLAY THE GAME. A Word to Young Men who have been Confirmed. SOLDIER AND SERVANT. A Word to Girls who have been Confirmed. By the Rev. E. Grose Hodge. London: S.P.C.K. Price 2s. per 100 each. IN DUE TIME. A Story founded on Fact. London: S.P.C.K. Price 2s. per 100.