

An interesting account of the baptism of converts from Islam is given in the April number of the *C.M. Gleaner*. Dr. A. C. Lankester, of Peshawar, writes concerning a learned Moulvi who, together with his two sons, had been for over a year under constant teaching in Peshawar Mission Hospital : "Belonging to a village in the Hazara district, the Moulvi obtained his first impression through reading books lent to him by the Rev. T. R. Wade during visits to Abbottabad, and came to us for more definite teaching in the summer of last year (1908). Although his change of faith has involved a loss of property and complete separation from most of his relatives, yet he has confessed Christ with boldness, and two days before his baptism he preached for the first time to a large audience at our out-patient service, witnessing in the most outspoken yet humble manner to the truth that he had found. His wife, happily, has come with him, and it is our hope and prayer that she, too, may soon be baptized with the two younger sons."



Literary Notes.

DR. NEWMAN SMYTH showed in a previous volume, "Through Science to Faith," familiarity with modern biological researches. In his new work, "Modern Belief in Immortality," Dr. Smyth is not content to assume simply a critical philosophical attitude towards natural science, as though only a trace were to be made between the new knowledge and the old faith. He thinks that from modern scientific studies fresh and rich materials are to be drawn for the aid and revitalizing of man's spiritual belief and hopes. In this essay he reasons with great force from the nature of personal energy, and the value especially of body to mind, on to the possibilities of further adaptation of personal life hereafter in some higher perception of, and actual relation to, the outward universe. The book is written in a style easily intelligible to the ordinary reader.



In Mr. Henry Frank's new book, "Modern Light on Immortality," the author carries the reader through philosophy and the natural sciences, through religious and ethical doctrines and beliefs, ancient and modern, in a survey of the historical, philosophical, and scientific bases of the belief in human survival of death.



From Mr. John Lane, the well-known publisher of the Bodley Head, comes an important volume entitled "Memories of Sixty Years at Eton, Cambridge, and Elsewhere," by Oscar Browning. In this really attractive volume of reminiscences Mr. Browning tells in a very happy way of his exceedingly interesting associations with many illustrious people, most of whom were friends as well. In fact, the whole volume is highly entertaining, and one which will well repay the reader who gives his time to it. Names such as those of Robert Browning, George Eliot, Calverley,

Mr. Balfour, Lord Curzon, and Lord Rosebery, constantly recur. Mr. Browning's fascinating volume will probably prove to be one of this year's best collection of memoirs.



Volume iii. of "The Epistles of Erasmus, from his Earliest Letter to his Fifty-first Year," is in rapid preparation. These letters are arranged in order of time, and are English translations from his correspondence, with a commentary confirming the chronological arrangement and supplying further biographical matter. Volumes i. and ii. have already appeared, and the author, Mr. Francis Morgan Nichols, is busily seeing through the press the new volume. Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. are the publishers. They are also issuing "Folk Stories from Southern Nigeria, West Africa," by Elphinstone Dayrell. Mr. Andrew Lang has written an introduction to this work.



Dr. J. Wilson Harper's book, "The Church and Social Betterment," contains a message for members of the Church, and discusses such present-day questions as: What is the Social Mission of the Church? How is Christianity related to the Social Problems of the Day? How far are the Claims of Socialism Valid? and, What is the Outlook of the Church at the Present Moment?



We may expect quite a number of interesting items from Mr. Stock in the near future. "Studies in the Making of Character" is the title of a new work by the Rev. Henry W. Clark, author of "Laws of the Inner Kingdom," which is announced for immediate publication. In a series of essays the author indicates the lines on which to formulate a programme in accordance with which the inner substance of manhood is to be shaped. Many of the problems involved in such a process are dealt with, and, although the essays are not specifically Christian, the author emphasizes that, for the realization of all the suggested ideals, Christianity provides the supreme and only efficient force. Another volume which is likely to prove of very great value is a new work, entitled "The Church of England as Catholic and Reformed." This work is an expansion of the Chester Diocesan Lectures in Divinity, and is intended as a manual of Church of England doctrine for the use, not only of Churchpeople, but also of other inquirers. The same publisher also issues "The Church Catechism: Simplified and Proved from Holy Scripture," by the Rev. William Burnet, and "The Vision of His Face," by Dora Farncomb. To this latter volume the Rev. J. Stuart Holden has contributed an introduction, in the course of which he says: "Without having anything of the sound of the trumpet, the book vibrates with the music of the harp; and I am certain that those who take it up in the desire of gaining more clearly the vision of the King in His beauty will lay it down with gratitude and satisfaction of heart."



One cannot help viewing the lists of Messrs. Methuen and Co. with a certain amount of wonder. The variety, the enterprise, and the great

attraction always to be found in their catalogues and announcement lists are always most astonishing. A new volume has just been added to their "Italian States"; it is entitled "A History of Perugia," by Mr. William Heywood. This important work is based upon the results of the most recent research, and constitutes the first serious attempt which has yet been made to treat the subject as a whole and in its true perspective. Then this week has been published Professor C. W. C. Oman's volume, "England Before the Conquest" (the first in chronological order, although not the first to appear of the series which Professor Oman is editing), which deals with the history of England down to the Norman Conquest. It commences with a short sketch of Celtic Britain, but devotes much more space to the rather neglected period of the Roman occupation. The remainder of the volume deals with the more certain and terrible annals of the years from the landing of St. Augustine in 597 to the Battle of Hastings. Miss May Innes is also publishing, through Messrs. Methuen, her important work, "Schools of Painting." It is intended for schools, students, and the general reader, and it offers a general view of the development of painting in Europe from the first century A.D. to the beginning of the nineteenth. Another lady author has prepared an anthology of poems about Italy and Italian things and personages. Miss Ruth Shepard Phelps has chosen and arranged them. It is entitled "Skies Italian: A Little Breviary for Travellers in Italy," and is intended to give pleasure to the English reader who is travelling in Italy, and solace to those who remain at home. It contains over two hundred selections, and is designed not to overcrowd a pocket. Other recent Methuen works of interest to our readers are "Edward the Black Prince," by R. P. Dunn Pattison; "Nottinghamshire," by E. L. Guilford, in the "Little Guides"; and "A Guide to the Antiquities of Upper Egypt," by A. E. P. Weigall, Chief Inspector of Antiquities in Upper Egypt, "from Abydos to the Sudan frontier," for use of those who visit the famous ruins in his charge: Abydos, Denderah, Thebes, Luxor, Karnak, Esneh, El Kab, Edfu, Kom Ombo, Aswan, Philæ, Abu Simbel, and the intermediate antiquities. In the case of each a detailed history of the site is given, followed by a full description of the ruins, accompanied by plans upon which all the important points are clearly numbered, so that the reader may easily find his way about.



Mr. Coulson Kernahan, who has not given us a volume of essays for a long time now, recently finished a collection of papers which is shortly to be issued by Messrs. Jarrold and Son. The title of the book is to be "Dreams: Dead Earnest and Half Jest." Some of the subjects with which he deals are: "The Impossible Irishman," "Humour and Religion," "National Defence," and "A Dream of the World's End."



The National Free Church Council have in the press a work entitled "Christ and Civilization." It is an attempt to indicate on broad lines which represent the influence of Christianity on the progress of the world. Sir Percy Bunting, Dr. J. B. Paton, and Professor Garvie have collaborated in its preparation, and they have had the assistance of other well-known men.

Japan has loomed so largely on the political horizon of late—a fact which will be emphasized by the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition in London—that a new book on “Japan: The Eastern Wonderland,” by D. C. Angus, is sure to be welcome. The volume is published by Messrs. Cassell and Co., and deals intimately with the home life, religions, customs, fairs, and festivals of old Japan in an interesting way.



Archdeacon Hunt has written a treatise under the title of “Existence after Death implied by Science,” of which Messrs. Allenson are the publishers. In the spring list of the same firm is to be found a very attractive india-paper edition of “The Little Flowers of S. Francis of Assisi,” uniform with their well-known “Great Souls of Prayer.”



Notices of Books.

THE RISE OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH. By A. C. Flick, Ph.D., Litt.D., Professor of European History in Syracuse University. London: *Pulnam*. Price 15s. net.

The dedication of this book to the late Dr. H. C. Lea and to Professor Adolph Harnack sufficiently indicates the author's standpoint. He claims very justly that, after a series of necessarily more or less partisan histories by Churchmen of different denominations, the time is come for the lay historian to deal also with a subject which is not only inseparable from, but may even be considered the main thread in, the world's history for some 1,500 years. Equally well founded is his claim to such impartiality as can be expected in a matter of this kind. His conclusions are un-sacerdotal, not anti-sacerdotal. He has evidently taken pains to study both sides and to appreciate what is best in the Middle Ages, though his instinctive sympathies are with the Reformation. The plan of the book, therefore, appeals to moderate men of all schools; but the execution leaves a good deal to be desired. It is a difficult task to compress nearly thirteen centuries of Church history into a single volume, even though this be a stout octavo of more than 600 pages. Moreover, so wide a range demands a sureness of touch which is given to few; and, again, if the layman is the outsider who sees most of the game, he has also the great disadvantage of unfamiliarity with technical details. Even Dr. Lea, with all his exceptional industry and erudition, made several slips natural enough in a Quaker, but serious in their effect upon his argument; and Professor Flick has fallen into a good many errors which Dr. Lea would most certainly have avoided. He imagines that the office of Archdeacon was abolished in the twelfth century (p. 585). Does this rest upon some vague recollection of John of Salisbury's doubt whether any Archdeacon could get to heaven? He evidently has not realized the existence of the “Decretals” proper, apart from the False Decretals (p. 589). He describes as the *orthodox* theory of Extreme Unction a superstition which in fact