

Notices of Books.

THE CHURCH AND THE DIVINE ORDER. By Rev. John Oman, M.A., B.D., D.Phil. *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 6s.

This is an able and carefully written treatise dealing with the origin, history, and present position of the Christian Church. Commencing with "The Jewish Preparation," Dr. Oman follows Lightfoot in affirming that "Christianity extended itself from the synagogue, and nowhere from the Temple." Dealing with "Jesus as Founder," he declares that the Apostles were not regarded as a hierarchy in germ, but taught instead to renounce authority, and, after the example of their Master, to take the place of servants. He contends that our Lord, instead of appointing for His Church "an ecclesiastical programme and an incipient hierarchy," formed "a society organized on the sole basis of love, equality, and mutual service." Commenting on the institution of the Lord's Supper, Dr. Oman observes that "it was a rite which did not turn the officers of the Church into sacrificing priests, but sealed all His followers into a fellowship wherein the Cross, in contrast with human power and authority, is the one mighty thing through all eternity" (p. 50). He defines the apostolic view of the Church as a "unity of the spirit through the one Spirit of God working in the individual members, who, having been individually reconciled to God, are the spiritual, who can judge all things, and yet themselves be subject to no human judgment" (p. 59). While the Apostles, as the natural leaders of the Church, exercised great influence, this was merely personal, and not corporate, as their "supreme work consisted in maintaining the spirit of humility, which was the real bond of the Church" (p. 67). Their attitude was expressed by St. Paul's words in 2 Cor. i. 24. There is no trace, he maintains, in the New Testament of the restriction of the administration of the Sacraments to any class.

In his chapter on the "Catholic Church," Professor Oman traces the gradual development of episcopal authority and the decline of the prophetic office. The bishop or elder, he declares, took the place of the prophet by his right of presiding at the Eucharist; while the need for maintaining Christian fellowship in times of persecution led to the bishop obtaining a representative character as a mark of the unity of the Catholic Church. Gradually monarchical episcopacy arose, and the bishop was regarded as the special messenger of God who guaranteed the presence of Christ (p. 101). By the middle of the third century the conception of the Church as a hierarchical society was complete, although the bishop was not regarded as a sacrificing priest till some time later. "The essence of Catholicism," Dr. Oman declares, "is the reintroduction of law" (p. 107), and it was the dogmatic authority of the bishop, regarded as the successor of St. Peter, which established Catholicism "as an externally guaranteed knowledge of God, necessary for an externally conferred salvation" (p. 111). He then discusses the development of the Roman Church, the power of the Papacy, and the separation of the East and West. In reference to the latter, Dr. Oman declares that the fundamental difference between the two

Churches is that the Eastern is "primarily a hierurgical saving institution, while the Western is primarily a hierarchical" (p. 142). He has a very interesting chapter on Augustine, pointing out that he regarded the authority of the Church as subordinate to that of Scripture, and that his doctrine of election was similar to Calvin's. Dr. Oman holds that Augustine's "failure to give a due place to moral personality prepared the way for the later view of the Sacraments and for the subjection of the laity" (p. 180). One of the best chapters is that on the Reformation. The prime cause of the Reformation was, he asserts, "the problem of finding room in religion for the autonomy of the individual and the autonomy of the State" (p. 193). The true Church to Wyclif was the assembly of all the elect, and he anticipated the Reformer's differentiation between the visible and invisible Church by adopting Augustine's distinction between "the true and simulated body of Christ." Dr. Oman gives a good summary of Luther's teaching, and traces the influence of Wyclif's writings on the great German Reformer. He defines the three marks of the true Catholic Church as unity in Headship of Christ, the preaching of the Gospel, and government by the priesthood of all believers.

He has a useful chapter on "Lutheranism and Calvinism," and points out that the same principle was at stake in the English as in the Continental Reformation. "By Edward's reign," he says, "the bishop was no longer the channel of tradition, grace, and authority, but the chief minister of God's Word, and the chief organ of the priesthood of all believers" (p. 249). Dr. Oman scouts the idea that Jewel's "Apology" represents a *via media* between Protestantism and Romanism, and shows the close affinity in teaching between Jewel and Luther. It is, perhaps, to be expected that in his chapter on "Conformity and Nonconformity" Professor Oman champions the Nonconformist point of view, but we can scarcely imagine that the great Elizabethan Churchmen would have endorsed his verdict that they were not "convinced Protestants" because they did not adopt the Nonconformist or Puritan position.

He has an interesting chapter on "Rationalism and Evangelicalism," but we can scarcely agree with his estimate of Paley as "content to defend Christianity as a miraculous evidence that a purely utilitarian morality has the sanctions of God's command and everlasting happiness" (p. 291).

In his "Task of the Present," Dr. Oman pleads earnestly for the need of a Gospel for the poor, and not mainly for the wealthy and respectable; and he contends that the greatest need to-day is for a "new reverence for the sublimity and sacredness of the human soul," which will "put wealth in the second place and man in the first" (p. 323).

Dr. Oman is obsessed with the idea that the one essential for the true Christian society is the practice of the Divine rule of love. He also apparently holds strongly that, as Dr. Dale well defined it, Christ's work consisted simply in revealing God's love to us, and not that the Redemption which He accomplished for us on the Cross was itself the revelation of God's love. The Atonement, to Dr. Oman, is merely the greatest example of Divine love—"faith that the one mighty thing in the world is love" (p. 322). Thus he does not seem fully to appreciate the truth that it is the crucified Christ who is "the power of God" enabling men to overcome sin

and make "God's rule of love their whole environment," and that the Christian Church whose members are governed in conduct by this Divine rule will be the Church which holds tenaciously the true "faith once for all delivered to the saints."

Although we may not be able to accept all his conclusions, Dr. Oman has evidently read widely and studied deeply; and if his language is at times rather vague and obscure, and his style not exactly popular, yet his book is a valuable contribution to the solution of the difficulties and problems confronting the Church to-day.

C. SYDNEY CARTER.

THINGS THAT MATTER. By Prebendary Eardley-Wilmot. London: S.P.C.K. Price 2s. 6d.

Prebendary Wilmot did a daring thing, but he has justified his daring. He was asked to give a series of addresses at a city church in the week-day dinner-hour to a congregation of business men. It was explained that the whole service must not last more than half an hour. He accepted the invitation, and the daring thing was this: He brought into his addresses, under the popular title "Things that Matter," a very clear and comparatively full discussion of the Divine purpose in man. To lecture on the doctrine of grace to business men in half-hour sessions will suggest to most people both dryness and sketchiness. But this book is neither dry nor sketchy. It is an excellent summary of the positive content of the Christian faith, viewed from the point of view of a broad-minded Evangelical Churchman. We are sometimes twitted with being nebulous and negative. Half an hour leaves no room for negative aspects, and business men will not listen to the nebulous. Now that the addresses are in print, they should be read and studied by those who want to know where we stand, those who are interested in "Things that Matter." This book and the recently published volume by the Rector of Birmingham will do much to clear the air and make our position clear. We warmly commend it, not only to the clergy, but to thoughtful laity, as an excellent and straightforward account of the things most surely believed amongst us.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT CELTS. By J. A. MacCulloch, D.D., Hon. Canon of Cumbrae Cathedral. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Price 10s. net.

So little is known regarding the early history of the Celtic people that all attempts to give a detailed account of their origin, customs, and manner of life must, to a large extent, be a matter of conjecture, speculation, and deduction. Canon MacCulloch, however, has made full use of all the available original sources of information, as well as of the researches of modern authorities, and thus is well prepared for his difficult task. Although the attempt to discover something of the religious worship, belief, and aspirations of primitive pagan races can never be devoid of interest, yet much of Dr. MacCulloch's book is necessarily only of antiquarian, philological, and ethnological value. We suspect, for example, that few people will concern themselves much with the meaning and history, the mortality or immortality, of "The Tuatha Dé Danann," "the folk of the goddess Dann," to which Dr. MacCulloch devotes some thirty pages.

In dealing with "The Celtic People," Canon MacCulloch gives us a survey of the various theories of modern scholars concerning the early inhabitants of our islands. He admits the obscurity of the Pictish problem, but thinks that the Celts, by mingling with the aborigines of Europe, must have become a mixed race before their migration to Britain, although the earlier Goidels were far less so than the later Brythons. In mentioning some of the main Celtic characteristics as "excitability, imagination and religiosity passing over easily to superstition," we are reminded of certain aspects of the Welsh Revival on the one hand and of the ignorant credulity of many of the Irish peasantry on the other.

Dr. MacCulloch explains the different significations of the various Gallic and Celtic gods and the growth and extent of the cults in connection with them, and gives a description of the rites and ceremonies which accompanied their worship. "The names of over 400 native deities," he declares, "are known, and only in a very few cases can it be asserted that a god was worshipped over the whole Celtic area by one name, though some gods in Gaul, Britain and Ireland, with different names, have certainly similar functions" (p. 47).

Canon MacCulloch gives a careful criticism of the Irish mythical deities, and compares them with "The gods of the Brythons," and concludes that, "like the divinities of Gaul and Ireland, those of Wales were mainly local in character, and only in a few cases attained a wider popularity and cult" (p. 14). He gives an account of the Cuchulaum and Fionn Sagas, and says that the latter, although possessed of little historical fact, was far more popular than the former, probably because it was a Celticized form of a saga concerning a popular hero of the aboriginal people, many of whom must have survived, and been assimilated with, the conquering Celts. The evidence of ancestral worship amongst the Celts is shown, Dr. MacCulloch thinks, by their practice of burying grave goods with the dead, or slaying wives or slaves on the tomb. There is an account of "Primitive Nature Worship," "Tree and Plant Worship," and "River and Well Worship," and the Canon declares that medieval witchcraft was partly "the old paganism in a new guise." In treating of "Animal Worship," he thinks that the evidence points to the "existence of totemism among the early Celts."

The notion of propitiating deities by human sacrifices was common amongst the Celts, and these were offered sometimes to ward off disease or danger, sometimes vicariously for the lives of a whole town, and sometimes as a thanksgiving after victory. Dr. MacCulloch gives a good account of Celtic festivals, and declares that the legend and procession of Godiva at Coventry is the survival of a pagan cult from which men were excluded.

In an exhaustive and interesting account of the origin, functions and authority of the Druids, Canon MacCulloch combats the views of Sir John Rhys and others that the Druids were a pre-Celtic priesthood, and asserts, on the other hand, that "Druidism covered the whole ground of Celtic religion" and "belonged both to the Goidelic and Gaulish branches of the Celts." Many superstitious Christian customs are merely the survival of Druidical magic. The Druids believed fully in a bodily immortality, although

there is no real evidence that the Celts held any theory of a day of judgment after death, or any idea of moral retribution beyond the grave. Dr. MacCulloch holds that transmigration, except in the case of gods and heroes was not a Celtic belief. "The dead Celt continued to be the person he had been, and it may have been that not a new body, but the old body glorified was tenanted by his soul beyond the grave" (p. 335). With the Celts the world of the dead was an exact replica of this world, only happier.

Dr. MacCulloch concludes with an interesting account of the Celtic "Elysium" the conceptions of which, even though sensuous, are beautiful and inspiring. It is not the world of the dead, but the abode of favoured mortals, the land "where there is immortal youth and peace and every kind of delight" (p. 373).

Those who are interested in pagan customs and superstitions and in mythological tales and legends will find a mine of wealth in these pages, but we do not anticipate that this really scholarly work will ever secure a much wider circle of readers.

C. SYDNEY CARTER.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS. By Rev. W. G. Dowsley, B.A. *Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd.* Price 6s. 6d. net.

This is not, as might be gathered from its short title, a treatise on how to keep Church accounts, but is a cash-book for use, with a short but clear description of how to keep it. In addition to this, there is a useful model page containing a treasurer's receipts and payments for one month properly entered, and a summary of them. The book may be recommended to the clergy and wardens or others having charge of accounts of this nature. The binding and printing are good.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN BURMA. By W. C. B. PURSER. *S.P.G.* Price 2s. net.

We are much indebted to the S.P.G. for this volume, for literature concerning Missions in Burma is scarce. The country is one of extreme interest, and the work is varied. Besides the Burmans proper, there are hill people, such as the Chins and Karens; there are numerous Tamils and Chinese immigrants, and there are the primitive tribes on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to say nothing of the Europeans and the domiciled community. Mr. Purser is at his best when describing the work on the islands, and in the chapters dealing with the Roman Catholic and the Baptist Missions. His brief sketch of the life of Adoniram Judson is more living than anything else in the book. In recording the work of the S.P.G. Mission, the detail is too great for broad effects, and a strong impress is not made. In the closing chapter, "Burma for Christ," one looks for a deeper, fuller note. After such missionary surveys as "The Reproach of Islam" or "The Future of Africa," one desires more for the Burman Buddhist than this: "The hope of the missionary is that Christianity will give to the Burman the power to perform the moral code with which he is already acquainted, and will provide him with that stiffening in which his character is at present deficient." The whole trend of Mr. Purser's book shows that he realizes that the Burman needs not only Christianity, but Christ. We wish this had rung out clearly at the close; it would have evoked more response.

"YAKUSU," THE VERY HEART OF AFRICA. By H. Sutton Smith. *Marshall Brothers*. Price 6s. net.

This book is delightfully easy to read, but difficult to classify. It is, on the one hand, a fresh and simply written record of life in and around one Baptist Mission station far up the Congo, full of incidents of native life, touches of humour, and quaint sayings and tales. On the other hand, it is one of the most valuable contributions to the scientific study of Missions which has been issued since the Edinburgh Conference. The book shows clear perception of the significance of things, close and accurate observation, and a marked power of generalization from first-hand evidence. To take one illustrative extract only, in the chapter on language we read: "The longer the student is acquainted with the Bantu languages of Africa, the greater does his respect for them become. He never tires of his language work, for it is exhilarating to make an utterance and to see the gleam of interest when a thought has been idiomatically expressed. *It is the eyes of the old men that will reward him most.*" (The italics are ours.) In its delicacy of perception and its reverential appreciation this book is the "Cranford" of missionary records. Apart from that, the story of the rooting of the Christian Church in "the world of the Lokele" is of thrilling interest, and the marvellous transformation amongst these "ex-cannibals" is inspiring in the highest degree. The thoughtful student chary of overloading his library shelves, and the vicar's wife who seeks "something interesting to read at the working-party," will alike find in "Yakusu" a book worth while to possess.

THE CHURCH IN GREATER BRITAIN. By the Ven. Archdeacon Wynne. *S.P.G.* Price 1s. 6d.

This is a third edition of the "Donellan Lectures," delivered before the University of Dublin in 1900-1901. The figures have been revised and brought up to date, and some new matter added concerning recent expansion in Canada. The seven lectures deal, first, with early Missions from the British Isles, and with the Church in the American Colonies; then follows records of Anglican work in Canada, Australia, and Tasmania, the Province of New Zealand, the West Indian Province, and the South African Province. There is a supplementary chapter on the Church in the lesser colonial possessions, and a number of valuable notes. The literary style is good, and the book abounds in well-arranged facts drawn from wide sources. No revision can remove the disadvantage in a book of this sort of the ten years which have elapsed since the lectures were given; it is not only figures, but the whole line of approach to colonial questions which has changed. But for all purposes of reference the lectures have high value, and furnish an admirable background for newer knowledge.

LITTLE TALKS ON BIG SUBJECTS. By Florence Northcroft. London: *H. R. Allenson, Ltd.* Price 1s. 6d. net.

These are a series of papers for men and women, written by "Mrs. Cheerful" for the columns of the *Church Army Gazette*, now collected into an attractive volume. They are bright and homely talks, well suited for mothers' meetings, etc.

HOLY BIBLE. Tercentenary Edition. *Oxford University Press*.

This edition of the Bible is remarkable for three things—a specially corrected text, a new system of references which concentrates at a typical passage the more important

occurrences of the word elsewhere, and at all other places refers to the central passage, and a new and useful method of paragraphing. Certainly it is one of the best editions of the Authorized Version that we have seen.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS OF TO-DAY. By Thomas W. Corbin. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 5s. net.

Just the book to give to a mechanically minded boy, containing in simple language the story of the more important inventions of modern days, clearly illustrated.

MEDICAL SCIENCE OF TO-DAY. By Wilmott Evans, M.D. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 5s. net.

A popular account of modern medical processes, including chapters on germs, X rays, and many such-like things. It is written to inform the mind, and not to be used in place of the family doctor.

THE ROMANCE OF AERONAUTICS. By Charles C. Turner. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 5s.

A general account of the attempt to conquer the air, beginning with the many failures of the early days and tracing the history down to the triumphs of to-day. Many will be glad to read so brightly written a book.

SERMONS ON SOCIAL SUBJECTS. By Percy Dearmer, M.A. London: *Robert Scott.* Price 2s. net.

A series of sermons preached last Lent under the auspices of the Christian Social Union. The sermons are all worth reading, but the three most striking are those by the Rev. J. E. Watts Ditchfield on "The Alien and the Anarchist"; by Dr. A. J. Carlyle on "The Christian Conception of Property"; and by Canon Scott Holland on "The House at Bethany."

FORE AND AFT. By E. Keble Chatterton. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 16s. net.

A ponderous tome, excellently illustrated, telling the story of the sailing-ship of the smaller kind from the first attempts to make a boat until this century of ours, when the steam pinnacle or the electric launch is beginning to drive even the small sailing-boat from the sea. A book which will be read with interest by all sea-faring folk who have caught something of the romantic spirit of the sea.

THINGS SEEN IN VENICE. By Lonsdale Ragg, B.A., and Laura M. Ragg. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 2s. net.

An excellent guide-book, without the wearisome details of Baedeker. If you can go to Venice, take it with you; if not, you will get a better idea of the place and its romantic associations in no other way than with its aid. The illustrations are excellent; the letter-press even better.

PAPERS ON THE DOCTRINE OF THE EUCHARISTIC PRESENCE. By Rev. N. Dimock. 2 vols. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 5s. net each.

This is another addition to the memorial edition of Mr. Dimock's works. It is a mine of information in these difficult days. It ought to be in the library of every clergyman and thoughtful layman. We are very thankful that it is in two volumes, for in one it was somewhat bulky, and we are particularly grateful for the excellent index, which makes its contents easily available.

LIFE AFTER DEATH. By T. A. Carmichael. London: *D. Hardwick.* Price 9d.

The Queen Mother has called this "a beautiful and comforting little book," and we feel sure that many a bereaved one will find it so.

THE ATONEMENT OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. By Rev. John Cullen, D.D. Nottingham: *Sisson and Parker.* Price 1s.

Dr. Cullen is a clear thinker and a thoughtful student. His book is short, but it goes to the root of the matter, and presents a view of the Atonement which no one can ignore, and which we believe alone satisfies the claims of Scripture upon it.

THE CHRISTIAN TEACHING OF COIN MOTTOES. By Rev. W. Allan, D.D. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 3s. 6d.

A very interesting study in a neglected field. Dr. Allan is evidently an expert in the matter of coins, and he knows how to draw from these old mottoes many a useful piece of teaching.

HEROES OF MODERN AFRICA. By Edward Gilliat. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 5s.

Stories of great discoverers, great soldiers, and great administrators, told brightly and clearly. It is much better for a boy to read such stories as these, which will not only

amuse but will educate, than to give all his time to the highly coloured stories of adventure which have no basis in fact.

THE HISTORICAL GROWTH OF THE ENGLISH PARISH CHURCH. By A. H. Thompson. *Cambridge University Press.* Price 1s. net.

We have already had from the same writer a little book on "The Ground Plan of the English Parish Church." This is intended to supplement that earlier book, and we can warmly commend it to those who would know something of the buildings and furniture of the old churches, so many of which we are glad to possess.

SCRIPTURAL AND CATHOLIC TRUTH AND WORSHIP. By Rev. F. Meyrick, M.A. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. net.

We are glad to think that a new edition of this book has been demanded, and we are grateful indeed that it has been possible to publish it at so small a price. We have reviewed it before, and need only say now that every loyal Churchman ought to possess it, and, possessing it, to read it.

THE CAVE OF HANUMAN. By Mrs. Hobart-Hampden. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 1s. 6d.

This book is the story of an English family who go out to India for a year. It is quite a thrilling account altogether, and the adventures of the children and their marvellous escapes make it impossible to put the book down till it is finished. The authoress is evidently quite at home in India, and as one reads one sees with her eyes the Indian village, the faithful Sambo, and the cave of Hanuman.

THE STORY OF HELEN. By M. F. Hutchinson. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 3s. 6d.

Helen's story is most romantic and interesting, and girls in their early "teens" will delight in it. After her early life spent in the country with her aunt, she goes to London, and hears on her nineteenth birthday that she is an heiress to a large fortune. Travel abroad and a London season nearly spoil her, but her early training triumphs and all ends well. A girl friend who is poor nearly loses her little all while playing bridge, and Helen realizes what it will mean to her; they both resolve to do better with their money in the future, be it little or much. Many other people come into Helen's story, and they are quite worth knowing. The moral tone is high throughout, but there is nothing distinctly religious in the tale.

Received: **THE BELLS OF IS.** By F. B. Meyer. **THE WAY TO GOD.** By D. L. Moody. **PLEASURE AND PROFIT IN BIBLE STUDY.** By D. L. Moody. London: *Morgan and Scott.* Price 1s. net, each. Three volumes of the Golden Treasury Series, printed in a new and cheaper form. **GIFTS AND GRACES** and **A LITTLE GARNER OF SONNETS.** London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 6d. each. Two little booklets, in prose and poetry, prettily got up for gift purposes. **THE HEIR OF REDCLIFFE.** By Charlotte M. Yonge. London: *T. Nelson.* Price 6d. **THE TABLE OF THE LORD.** By the Rev. D. M. McIntyre. London: *Morgan and Scott.* Price 3d. A little manual for communicants by a well-known Nonconformist. **THINGS SEEN IN NORTHERN INDIA.** By T. L. Pennell. London: *Scotley and Co.* Price 2s. Another volume of this admirable series. **STRENGTH FROM QUIETNESS.** By M. Giles. London: *Longmans.* Price 2s. net. A book of devotion for invalids, written from a high Anglican point of view. **ON GUARD.** By Amy Debenham. London: *R. Scott.* A series of homely readings for soldiers and working men. **OUR GIVING.** By J. Forbes Moncrieff. London: *Morgan and Scott.* Price 1s. net. An exhortation to increase liberality. **ILLUMINATED TEXT CARDS FOR THE NEW YEAR.** London: *Morgan and Scott.* A particularly beautiful series of motto cards for 1912. **THROUGH THE HEART OF PATAGONIA.** By H. H. Prichard. London: *T. Nelson and Sons.* Price 1s. net. An interesting story of an almost unknown land. **THE ROAD.** By Frank Saville. London: *T. Nelson.* Price 7d. net. **CHRIST'S MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM.** By Professor Hogg. London: *T. and T. Clark.* Price 1s. 6d. net. A series of simple Bible studies for intelligent readers. **A LITTLE BOOK OF EFFORT.** By F. J. Cross. London: *Stimpkin, Marshall.* Price 1s. net. Fifty-two virtues to be acquired a week at a time in a year, and a method of dating success or failure. **THE SONG OF THE SHEPHERD KING.** By R. C. Burr. London: *C. J. Thynne.* Price 1s. net. A happily written and devotional study of the twenty-third Psalm. **CAROLS, Ancient and Modern.** Books I. and II. London: *Morgan and Scott.* Price 6d. each. Two simple books of sensible carols. **THE BOOK WE ALL WRITE.** By Rev. W. Muir. London: *Morgan and Scott.* Price 1s. net. A devotional booklet dealing with memory, conscience, acquirement, character. **THE HERALD OF MERCY ANNUAL.** For 1911. London: *Morgan and Scott.* Price 1s. net. The annual volume of the well-known Evangelistic Monthly. **PICTURES OF PALESTINE.** By Rev. G. Robinson Lees. London: *Longmans.* Price 4d. net per set. A set of separate pictures for teaching stories of Bible life to children.