

I will only add that the present habit of reception at rare intervals and non-communicating attendance as a regular practice (how near is the approach here to Roman use!) is the unscriptural and unprimitive corollary of insistence upon early fasting reception.

G. S. STREATFEILD.



Notices of Books.

SKETCHES IN WESTERN CANADA. By the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ingham, D.D., and the Rev. C. L. Burrows, M.A. *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 2s. 6d.

It was a foregone conclusion that some members of the recent Mission of Help would give us some account of the places visited and the work done, as well as their impressions of Canadian Church life. None could have done it more pleasantly or effectively than the authors of this attractively got up little volume. There are graphic accounts of work at Lloydminster, Strathcona, Edmonton, and Stonewall, and verbal snapshots of prominent Canadian Churchmen. The impressions are arresting. The exclusion of religious instruction from the public schools is shown to be a drawback, and the loss to the rising generation very real and evident. The Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. are said to be prominent institutions in the West, doing valuable work, and the Scout movement, which has "caught on" in Canada, comes in for unqualified praise. Not the least interesting chapter is one contributed by a Canadian clergyman, in which he points out some of the weaknesses and perils by which the Canadian Church is beset. These pages constitute a trumpet-call to both clergy and laity, and, indeed, there is much that English Churchmen would do well to take to heart. In the closing chapter we have the picture of an old friend and his home—Dr. Griffith Thomas, who is spoken of as "lent to Canada for a time."

HINDUISM ANCIENT AND MODERN. By the Rev. J. A. Sharrock, M.A. *S.P.G.* Price 2s. 6d.

The author, who was for many years a missionary in South India, and is now Principal of St. Boniface College, Warminster, expresses in his preface regret that the study of comparative religion is "almost entirely ignored" in the training of missionaries who have to be prepared for the "usual theological examinations." His work is an attempt to bring ancient and modern Hinduism within the purview of "that large body of men and women who are now interested in Missions," and it is written in the consciousness that "Christianity is face to face, and in deadly conflict, with the great religions of the world—to conquer or be conquered." He has given us a volume which should appeal to Hindus seeking the light, as well as to English Christians who want to understand a religion professed by so many of their fellow-subjects.

AN HEROIC BISHOP. The Life Story of French of Lahore. By Dr. Eugene Stock. *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 2s. net.

In these pages Dr. Stock has given us a delightful sketch of one who is in the front rank of modern missionaries, but whose work is not so well known

as it deserves to be. From first to last he was a pioneer, and though he had held the bishopric of Lahore, he closed his life as a plain missionary in Persia. Such men as Bishop French have helped to raise our conceptions and enlarge our outlook, and in our materialistic, pleasure-loving age have demonstrated the fact that Christianity has not ceased to produce lives that count all things but loss for the Lord. We wish the book a wide circulation.

ADVENT CERTAINTIES. F. B. Macnutt. *Robert Scott.*

It is more than time that Churchpeople faced the question as to what they really believe, in their heart of hearts, as to the Advent hope. In how many of the "Advent Courses of Sermons" which will be announced so soon will the season which the Church has set apart for one purpose be used for some other? Sermons on the first coming; sermons on the present coming; sermons on a mystical coming; sermons on no coming at all! But where shall we find sermons which proclaim with enthusiasm and without apology a literal personal triumphant return of Jesus Christ as King and Judge, breaking in unexpectedly upon an unprepared world, and bringing a new Kingdom which is more than, and different from, an evolution of present conditions?

We shall find such sermons in the book before us. Canon Macnutt, with vigorous phraseology, dispels the "mists of uncertainty" which close round the modern Christian, the "limping, half-paralyzed pilgrim through shadow-land," at whose coldness of heart at the Advent Message the early Christians (we are truly told) would have gazed with such sad surprise. He is less concerned to bring out details of the "certainties" than to emphasize always the great broad inspiring facts that Christ is really coming again, and this main theme runs through all the sermons, even though titles and texts vary.

There are plenty of replies to German critics, and frequent references to social problems, and an excellent passage urging to missionary endeavour, but all six sermons strike us as being pretty much alike, and they are probably more profitable when read in the study than when heard from the pew.

Six other sermons complete the book, and deal with the Passion and Ascension of our Lord and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We rather lose our way in Sermons x. and xi., but we like the Ordination Sermon (xii.) as well as any in the book.

CHARACTER AND RELIGION. Edward Lyttelton, M.A. *Robert Scott.* Price 5s. net.

The Headmaster of Eton has placed us all under debt. His book is a careful and exhaustive treatment of a most important modern question. The arguments from every quarter have been most clearly and fairly set out, and the whole sifted material brought together.

Is it enough to teach morals without religious dogma? Can character be formed without a Christian basis? Why not be content to teach our children to be loving, unselfish, and altruistic, without bothering about difficult matters like the Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Divinity of Jesus Christ? Because you cannot, replies Mr. Lyttelton. Search history through for any motive able to make men admire and strive for the cluster of virtues comprised under the broad head of "Humility," and

you search in vain. Even the lofty teaching of Plato produced nothing better than Aristotle's ideal man, who "rates himself at the highest possible rate" and "wishes to be superior"; nor could the wonderful teaching of Old Testament Psalms and Prophets prevent Pharisaism from developing and becoming the ideal of the nation whose writings these were. The innate egoism in man is only conquered as he apprehends something of the self-effacement of the Divine Being who took human nature and deliberately died a shameful death on his behalf. Anything short of this completely fails to account for the rise, during the Christian era, of the general admiration for the qualities of humility which before were almost despised.

The book does not pretend to be light reading. It is a serious discussion, seriously undertaken by one who has thoroughly mastered the subject. It makes it perfectly clear that "secular education" will fail to produce character. The book should be bought and studied.

RUDOLF EUCKEN: HIS PHILOSOPHY AND INFLUENCE. By Meyrick Booth, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Jena), Translator of "Main Currents of Modern Thought." London: *T. Fisher Unwin*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

Professor Eucken is especially interesting to the Christian student, because he regards the spiritual life as the centre of all reality, and because he demands man's co-operation in that spiritual life. After the many efforts that have been made in every age by agnostic philosophers to find a solution of the problem of life, efforts which have always failed, it is refreshing and encouraging to find that the great thinkers of to-day are coming to the conclusion that Christianity alone offers us an adequate solution. Eucken is clearly convinced of this, and although his interpretation of Christianity is not ours, he realizes that Christianity has triumphantly succeeded just where Eastern religions and non-Christian systems of philosophy have failed. Many of us have neither the time nor the philosophic training to appreciate Eucken in his own works, and so we are devoutly thankful for the plain and interesting sketch which Mr. Meyrick Booth has given us. It is a book worth reading and worth thinking over.

AT CLOSE QUARTERS. By John A. Hutton, M.A. THROUGH NIGHT TO MORNING. By A. C. Dixon, B.A., D.D. LIFE'S FLOOD TIDE. By J. Stuart Holden, M.A. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 3s. 6d. each net.

Mr. Robert Scott is rapidly becoming a great publisher of good sermon literature, and his publishing house need not be ashamed of any of these three volumes. Of the three, that by Mr. Hutton is, perhaps, to the reader the most interesting and suggestive. Mr. Hutton has the rare touch of originality, and his method of treatment, as well as his wealth of illustration, make these sermons particularly interesting to read. The best introduction to the book is the mention of some of his titles: "The Injury from Lower Approvals," "The Shame of being Neutral," "The Cure of the Questioning Spirit," and many more.

Dr. Dixon's volume is in the main evangelistic, with just an occasional sermon for those already won. The Gospel which he preaches is the full Gospel, and he preaches it with a wealth of illustration, American in its wealth, but quite English in its suitability. Here is one picked out by

chance: "I am quite sure that I own ten or a dozen umbrellas in London, while I possess only one or two. Some time ago I owned a good overcoat, but someone came into my study and took it out. I still own it, but he possesses it. It is possible for God to own us, while the devil possesses us. The ideal Christian is the man who recognizes the ownership of Christ, and realizes His full possession through the Holy Spirit."

Of Mr. Stuart Holden's volume little need be said. His sermons are too well known to need introduction, and when it is said of this last volume that the sermons printed here maintain the level of his other published works, a large circle of readers is at once assured.

IN THE UPPER ROOM. By D. J. Burrell, D.D., LL.D. London: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 2s. net.

This is a new volume in the Short Course Series, which has already given us so much that is excellent. Dr. Burrell has chosen for exposition a series of chapters which are full of difficulties, which have often been expounded before, and which are some of the most precious in the Christian Church. His volume is worthy of the series, and it will take its place with the most excellent expositions of these chapters. It is suggestive, aptly illustrated, beautifully devotional, and thoroughly scholarly—a real contribution to the literature of the Great Discourse.

Received: **THE HYMN-BOOK OF THE AGES.** By S. B. Macy. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 3s. 6d. net. The "Hymn-Book of the Ages" is, of course, the Pealter which Mrs. Macy prints, with comments and prayers, in a very attractive form. **WINNING A PRIMITIVE PEOPLE.** By Donald Fraser, with an introduction by John R. Mott, LL.D., F.R.G.S. London: *Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd.* Price 5s. net. Mr. Fraser we know, Mr. Mott we know, the Primitive people we shall get to know by means of this thoroughly attractive book. **WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY.** By Charles R. Gibson, F.R.S.E. London: *Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. net. A popular account; just the book for a scientifically inclined lad. **THINGS SEEN IN OXFORD.** By Norman J. Davidson, B.A. (Oxon). London: *Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd.* Price, cloth, 2s. net. Another volume in this excellently illustrated series. **THE PRESS AND ITS STORY.** By J. D. Symon, M.A., Assistant Editor of *Illustrated London News*. London: *Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd.* Price 5s. net. An excellent gift-book for young and old. **A KALENDAR OF HYMNS ANCIENT AND MODERN.** By Rev. R. S. Genge, M.A. London: *Humphrey Milford* (Oxford University Press). Price 2d. net. **OLD TESTAMENT LEGENDS.** By M. R. James, Litt.D., King's College, Cambridge. London: *Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd.* Price 3s. 6d. net. This is a collection of stories gathered from some of the less known of the Apocryphal books of the Old Testament, told of patriarchs, kings, and others. The title is a little unfortunate, but the book is decidedly interesting. **THIS WONDER-WORLD.** By Agnes Giberne. London: *R.T.S.* Price 1s. 6d. An introduction to modern science for growing boys and girls; very simply written. **NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS.** London: *Roffey and Clark*, Croydon. Price 2d. each net. A series of little pamphlets reprinted from the *Lay-Reader*. **THE TREASURY OF DAVID.** By C. H. Spurgeon. New edition, issued in forty-eight fortnightly parts, 7d. each net. London: *Marshall Brothers, Ltd.* A new edition in serial form of this well-known work. **HIS LITTLE BIT O' GARDEN.** By Mildred Hill. London: *H. R. Allenson, Ltd.* Price 1s. 6d. net. A missionary story and a love story woven into one. **HEROES OF THE INDIAN MUTINY.** By Edward Gilliat, M.A. (Oxon.). London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 5s. **IAN HARDY, NAVAL CADET.** By Commander E. Hamilton Currey, R.N. London: *Seeley, Service and Co.* Price 5s. Two gift-books of the kind for which this firm has made itself famous. **SUBMARINE ENGINEERING OF TO-DAY.** By Charles W. Domville-Fife. London: *Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd.* Price 5s. net. A popular gift-book of a scientific kind, but not quite of an elementary nature.