

Notices of Books.

A COMMENTARY ON 2 CORINTHIANS. By Alfred Plummer, D.D. Edinburgh :
T. and T. Clark. Price 12s. net.

The latest volume of the "International Critical Commentary" has a pathetic interest quite apart from its inherent value. It is a war number, for as we turned over the pages which give a list of the Greek Uncial MSS. the eye was at once arrested by "N, Fourth Century, Codex Sinaiticus, now at Petrograd." We shall hear of the conjunction of Tischendorf and St. Petersburg no more. Again, the volume has to mourn the loss of both editors and author. The original editors of the series were Drs. Briggs, Driver, and Plummer, but the first-named died in 1913, and the second in 1914. The authors were to have been the same as those of 1 Corinthians, but the Bishop of Exeter had to withdraw through pressure of work, and in the end the veteran scholar Dr. Plummer was left both to write and to edit. It is a matter for great thankfulness that he has succeeded in finishing the work. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians stood badly in need of a reliable and up-to-date commentary, and now it is furnished with one. It is not too much to say that "Plummer on 2 Corinthians" will take its place as the standard work just as firmly as "Sanday and Headlam" on Romans.

Anyone who has attempted a careful study of the Epistle knows that it bristles with very difficult questions, critical, historical, and theological, upon which a long and inconclusive controversy has taken place. Dr. Plummer tells us in his preface his general attitude to these. He says "he has no new solutions to offer for any of the numerous problems which this Epistle presents. But he has endeavoured to show that in some cases there is one solution which is so reasonable in itself, and so much more probable than any other, that students who have no time to investigate every point for themselves may be allowed, without discussion, to assume the solution as the right one. There must, however, always remain a considerable number of questions to which no certain answer can be given." It should be added that in every case, both where he has a decided view and where he hesitates, Dr. Plummer gives a careful summary of the arguments alleged on both sides of the controversy, and usually a lengthy list of authorities which reminds one of Meyer's series.

Let us take as an example of a critical question the integrity of the Epistle. Fourteen pages of the Introduction are devoted to this subject. It is generally known that it has been seriously questioned whether our 2 Corinthians is not really a conflation of several letters or parts of letters written at different times by St. Paul to the Corinthians. Of course, there is no external evidence for this; but, on the other hand, there is a good deal of internal evidence, which lies upon the surface of the text, and is obvious enough even in the English translation. The main questions are—(1) Whether the section vi. 14-vii. 1 is a part of the lost letter referred to in 1 Cor. v. 9; (2) whether chapters viii. and ix. can be regarded as a continuation of i.-vii. and part of one letter; (3) whether the bit of history in xi. 32, 33 is of the nature of a marginal note which has crept into the text; and, most serious of all, (4) whether chapters x.-xiii. are part of a severe letter written by

St. Paul between 1 Corinthians and the conciliatory letter which forms the first part of the present 2 Corinthians. It is impossible in a review to go into details; but, briefly, Dr. Plummer dismisses the second question rapidly with an affirmative answer. He regards the first and third as more serious, but on the whole in both cases feels that the difficulty of accounting for the presence of the sections, if they are not original and integral, is greater than the difficulty of their abruptness and disconnectedness. The question of the last four chapters is discussed fully and at length, and the arguments are lucidly stated. For these the reader must be referred to the volume itself. The conclusion is temperately put thus: "So long as no documentary evidence can be found in favour of the proposal (to regard chapters x.-xiii. as part of a separate letter), those who reject it can do so with reason. But the internal evidence in favour of this hypothesis is so cogent in detail and so coherent as a whole, and the difficulty from which it frees us is so great, that there will probably always be some who prefer it to the traditional view." Among the latter is Dr. Plummer.

Among the historical questions raised by 2 Corinthians, those of the relations of St. Paul to Corinth, whether carried on in person, by messenger, or by letter, are, of course, as paramount as they are involved. These relations lead to a list of numerous points which need discussion, and on one's attitude to which the construction of a chronological scheme, without which no adequate interpretation of the Epistle is possible, depends. Dr. Plummer's examination of the evidence, partly in the Introduction and partly in the Commentary, is fair and full. No two students are likely to agree upon a scheme in every detail; but it can be said, without fear of serious contradiction, that the scheme of events presented on p. xviii is fundamentally and in the main sound. The points where one might disagree are the minor and more highly speculative points, where really no solution can be certain for lack of evidence. We should like to call attention also to the discussion of the nature of the "thorn in the flesh" on pp. 348-350. Here, again, the only wise conclusion is the one given—"We still do not know, for the evidence is insufficient." But the pages contain not merely a good exegesis of the Greek phrase, but a full summary of possible views from the Greek Fathers down to Ramsay.

We come, lastly, to theology and its foundation, careful exegesis of the text; and as an illustration let us select the discussion of the future life. Is there an advance in St. Paul's thought from 1 Cor. xv. to 2 Cor. v.? It is a highly debated question. Dr. Plummer has three pages about it in his Introduction, and he has an additional note on p. 160 ff. He seems to agree with Deissmann and others that St. Paul's mind was surging with great feelings born of his spiritual experience, that he gave expression to them from time to time in varying phrase to meet different needs, and that it is unjust to him to try to work his several statements into detailed schemes. The conclusion is surely right, though negative. Then it becomes more important to understand each passage in its grand isolation. And here we would call attention to a good feature of the Commentary which is adopted from Sanday's "Romans"—the insertion of an expanded paraphrase of each section of the text. No book needs such expanded elucidation more than

2 Corinthians. Most readers of the *CHURCHMAN* will possess Weymouth's version. Here is Dr. Plummer's expansion of the difficult passage v. 1-9:

"I affirm this because we know well that, if the tent-like body which is our earthly dwelling should be taken down, God supplies us with a better building, a dwelling that is supernatural, lasting, with its site not on earth, but in heaven. For truly in this tent-dwelling we sigh and groan, desiring greatly to have our heavenly home put over us, sure that this putting of it on will secure us from being found at Christ's coming without any house at all. For verily we that are still in our tent, awaiting His return, have reason to sigh and groan, feeling oppressed because, while we shrink from the idea of losing it by death, we desire to have the better dwelling placed over it, in order that all that is perishable in the one may be swallowed up by the imperishable nature of the other. Our feelings may seem to be a poor security for this, but we have a far stronger one. He who has schooled us for this very change is none other than God Himself; and He has given us, as a guarantee that we shall have it, no less than His Holy Spirit.

"Having, therefore, at all times such a sure ground for confidence, and knowing that so long as we are still at home in the body we are in a sort of exile from our home in the Lord—for here we have to guide our steps by means of faith, because the realities which shape our lives cannot be seen—we have, I say, a sure ground for confidence, and in that confidence we are well content rather to go into exile from our home in the body, and take up our abode in our home with the Lord. Having such a preference, we are not only well content to leave the body, but we earnestly desire that, whether we are still in it or already out of it, we may find acceptance with Him."

Paraphrases of this kind are often more valuable than much detailed commentary, and we are grateful for their insertion. But the Commentary also is carefully written, and the Greek text is fully explained. Dr. Plummer has amassed a great amount of relevant information. Thus, there has been an interesting discussion lately in the *Expository Times* as to the voice of *ἐνεργουμένη* in Jas. v. 16 and elsewhere, and we turned to see what was said about it in the note on 2 Cor. i. 6. Of course, that discussion is not noticed (it might be in the next edition), but there are the appropriate references to Lightfoot and Robinson, and a leaning is shown to the now fashionable view of Robinson.

We trust we have said enough to illustrate the thoroughness and saneness of Dr. Plummer's work, and we commend it heartily to the attention of every student of the New Testament.

C. H. K. BOUGHTON.

THE FOURFOLD GOSPEL: THE PROCLAMATION OF THE NEW KINGDOM.
By E. A. Abbott. *Cambridge University Press*. Price 12s. 6d. net.

Fifteen years ago Dr. Abbott published Part I. of his monumental work "Diatessarica." Since then he has given us a new Part nearly every year. "The Fourfold Gospel" is Part X. of the "Diatessarica," and the present volume is Section iii. of "The Fourfold Gospel." It covers more than 570 pages, and deals with St. Mark i. 16 to iii. 35, together with the corresponding passages from the other Gospels.

It is not a commentary in the ordinary sense of the word, but an investi-

gation, first into the words, then into the thoughts, of the Evangelists, and through these into the thought of our Lord in proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

Dr. Abbott evidently does not pay much regard to modern commentators. With the help of Concordances, the Septuagint, the Targumim, and other versions, and the writings of the Early Fathers and Jewish commentators, he works on the text of the Gospels, subjecting every significant word or phrase to a thorough examination, pointing out the deviations of Matthew and Luke from Mark, and trying to ferret out the cause or causes of such deviations. He believes that the Synoptical Gospels were in the hands of St. John, who constantly intervened to correct or supplement them. Thus supplemented, the Synoptists will reveal that the object of our Lord, from the first, was "not the establishment of what men would commonly call a kingdom, but the diffusion of what we should rather call the atmosphere of a family, a spiritual emanation spreading like a widening circle from a source within Himself as its centre, and passing into the hearts of all that were fitted to receive it, so as to give them something of His own power or 'authority'—a term defined in the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel as being 'authority to become children of God.'"

The whole subject is treated with the originality, clearness, and vast learning which characterize the author's other publications. The subtlety of reasoning often yields very charming results, though sometimes the result may not be convincing to every reader. Here is an example. The author is discussing the Calling of the Fishermen, and draws attention to the fact that St. John often applies to our Lord the word "walk." The first instance of this is found in John i. 36, where we read: "Looking steadfastly on Jesus *walking*, he [*i.e.*, the Baptist] saith, Behold, the Lamb of God." As a result, two of the Baptist's disciples followed Jesus, and "abode with Him that day. *It was about the tenth hour.*" Why does John mention "the tenth hour"? Dr. Abbott believes that St. John is modelling the early parts of his Gospel on the early chapters of Genesis, and therefore turns to Genesis for an explanation. Now, the first instance of the word "walk" in the Old Testament is found in Gen. iii. 8, "And they heard the voice of the Lord *walking* in the garden *in the cool of the day.*" But the LXX. has "in the afternoon," and Rashi says that Adam and Eve "*sinned the tenth hour.*" "This indicates, in John," says Dr. Abbott, "an allusive mention of 'the tenth hour,' as though the Evangelist said: 'At the end of the first Genesis, the divine Voice (not the Word) descended to convict man of sin, and to sentence him to death.' At the beginning of the second Genesis, the divine Word descended to redeem man from that sin, and to deliver him from that death. In both cases the hour was . . . *about the tenth hour.* Adam, fallen man, hid himself, and was terrified by the Voice of Him that '*walked*' on earth. The men of the new Genesis, on the contrary, '*followed*' the Word that '*walked*' among them."

The book is exceedingly suggestive, and the student who takes delight in the study of every word of the Gospels will be both charmed with and instructed by this volume, though he may think that some of the author's conclusions are far-fetched.

Dr. Abbott shows special appreciation of the Gospel of St. John, and of

its message to the present generation. "Never was there an age when it was more practically needed—an age that has been so far led astray by the impostures of false philosophy and false science as to dream that man's permanent welfare can be brought about by an appeal to enlightened self-interest, through the re-adjustment of social and political arrangements, with the aid of the marvellous discoveries of modern science. Against this imposture all the Gospels in various ways protest. But the Fourth Gospel protests most clearly by bringing before us the Incarnation as a part of a Plan from the beginning, the Plan of the Father to conform mankind to His own image and likeness through the assimilating power of the revealed Son. This Gospel uncompromisingly teaches us that there is no hope of any permanent universal good, except through a permanent universal change of heart, a regeneration in all races, nations, and classes of mankind."

K. E. KHODADAD.

THE WORLD WAR, AND AFTER. An Inquiry and a Forecast. By Alfred E. Knight. London: *Morgan and Scott*. Price 2s. net.

The Great War is the one all-absorbing, fruitful topic of the day. Even our never-failing friend, "the weather," is hopelessly beaten out of the field! Books, too, on the war pour from the Press in a veritable stream. Needless to say, many of these are not worth the paper on which they are printed, but this book is an exception. Not concerned immediately with the political and diplomatic causes of the war, Mr. Knight discusses the three probable moral causes: (1) Prussian militarism under the malign influence of the Kaiser; (2) the aggressive atheism and nature philosophy of Nietzsche; (3) the decadent teaching emanating from the German gymnasia and the universities. He quotes Herr A. Kerr as saying: "The love of gain has become its ruling passion; the whole of Germany is hypnotized by the golden calf of profit. You (the French) are rich. Therefore your possessions are coveted. But I must say we gaze more towards England than towards you." He contrasts the Germany of to-day with the Germany of the Reformation, with its lofty ideals and sturdy faith, and shows that German theology is simply the natural outcome of German rationalism. From "the menace without" he turns to "the menace within," and reviews the state of religious thought and feeling in England to-day. Though he is not one of those who think the German Emperor is Antichrist, or that the present war is Armageddon, he yet believes that we are on the threshold of greater events. These he deals with in a chapter entitled "After!" He criticizes—we think very rightly—the declaration of *The Times* that the shelling of Rheims Cathedral was "the greatest crime of the war." "The murder," he says, "of the feeblest child is of greater moment than the wrecking of the proudest cathedral." He charges the Pope with his inaction, showing that, while he has protested against the destruction of churches, he has not raised a finger in behalf of those who have suffered untold cruelties at the hands of the Germans. Mr. Knight makes no attempt to reconstruct the map of Europe. This is, we believe, a good thing. It is better to wait and see how God works His purposes out. But the closing pages of this book constitute a trumpet-call to the Church of God, and thoughtful Christians will find them stimulating.

THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. By the Rev. Herbert Pitts, sometime S.P.G. Missionary in North-West Australia. S.P.C.K. Price 2s. net.

The author has condensed a great deal of most interesting information into this little volume, throwing light upon the origin, the habits and customs and capacities of the Australian natives, amongst whom he himself has laboured and for whom he evidently still retains a strong affection. He believes the ancestors of the present "blacks" to have come from the Deccan in India, driven out by other tribes, they in their turn dispossessing a still earlier race of which the natives of Tasmania, who became extinct in 1876, may be taken as specimens.

Striking testimony is borne to the talents of these interesting people. Thus, "even a child, from an upturned stone or some marks on the bare soil, will say how many men have been along the track, and how long ago." The Rev. George King, an S.P.G. missionary, reported of the girls in his school that "they were not one degree inferior to the common average of European children." Another girl, married to a European, "was quite able to hold her own in every way with the white woman. Her home and her children were always beautifully neat and clean, and she" was even "credited with having taught her husband to read."

Three chapters are devoted to missionary work among them, one of which gives account of Roman Catholic Missions. The following from the closing paragraph of the book is well worthy of attention: "Charles Peace, the murderer, once told the prison chaplain that if he really believed his message it would be worth his while, not only to go to the ends of the earth to proclaim it, but to go with his bare feet over broken bottles. . . . If we have heard the utterance of the Great Intercessor, if we have listened to the beating of His Heart, we shall be unable to rest till every aboriginal has been won, because His Heart is restless so long as one single soul is in ignorance of Him." The book is excellently written and deserves an extensive circulation.

GOD'S PLAN IN EVOLUTION. By the Rev. E. Petavel, D.D. Translated by the Rev. H. W. C. Geldart, M.A. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 1s. 6d. net.

The author is a believer in and a strong advocate of a "Christian Evolution"—*i.e.*, Evolution regarded as a Divine method of creation. He maintains that the making of man from the dust of the ground and the breathing into his nostrils the breath of life was not a single act, but a long process covering vast ages. He thinks that the Bible, so far from condemning, is rather in favour of the doctrine of Evolution. With all this we have no wish to disagree, though we should certainly contend for a definite point when, through the Divine inspiration, man became a moral being. Dr. Petavel, however, seems to recognize some break between, as he would put it, the first and second chapters of Genesis. Regarding them as two distinct records, he regards man in the first as in an animal or "infra-moral" stage. This line of argument seems to us contrary to the statement in chapter i. that man was made in the image of God.

While there is much that appeals to us in the author's defence of

Christian Evolution, there are many things in his treatise that we cannot endorse. We do not like to read, "God has given neither an infallible Pope . . . nor an infallible Bible." Is the Bible—the Word of God—to be mentioned in the same category with the utterances of, at best, a mere man? Dr. Petavel is evidently a believer in Conditional Immortality. He considers that Evolution explains original sin, which he takes to be an animal tendency inherited from our brute ancestors. We cannot agree that God does not "foreknow who will or will not be among the elect," or that while "there are crowns kept in reserve, He who keeps them has been pleased not to know who will wear them."

If the author's contention for Evolution from a Christian standpoint could be taken apart from the side issues, we think it might help the great work of bringing together our thoughts on religion with those of science.

THE REVELATION OF DISCOVERY. By the Right Rev. Charles H. Brent, Bishop of the Philippine Islands. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

In about 130 pages the Bishop discusses, *inter alia*, such important subjects as the Incarnation, the Virgin-Birth, the Atonement, the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit, and the Communion of Saints.

In the first chapter, entitled "The Relation of Discovery to Revelation," the Bishop says: "God's will to manifest Himself to man must be met by man's will to search for God. Revelation and discovery are two sides of the same shield; or, to use a different simile, man's seeking is the receptacle into which God pours His self-showing."

In chap. iii. he has some pertinent remarks to make on the compatibility of Divine love with the existing order of things. We are sometimes staggered at some of the sad mysteries of life, and we ask: "How can it be that a God who is love should permit this? As Dr. Brent shows, our difficulty is occasioned by our imperfect or one-sided conception of love. Our earliest conception of love is that it is indulgent—it does nothing but give. But indulgence often carries within it degeneracy and ruin. "God does not make us His darlings." "We have yet to perceive that love has vigour as well as tenderness, self-repression, as well as self-sacrifice; that love holds a pruning-knife as well as a balm; that love often gives its best by taking away most." It is not a token of indifference, but an expression of trust, when the mother withdraws her supporting arm from the timid, tottering babe learning to walk. She gives by taking away. Space would not allow us to quote more. The book is altogether up-to-date, thoughtful, sober and constructive. The younger clergy would do well to read this book and then lend it to thoughtful members of their congregation.

K. E. KHODADAD.

THE OTHER SIDE OF DEATH. By the Rev. R. Jones, B.A. London: *Siv Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd.* Price 2s. net.

This is a course of six sermons on the Great Beyond. It deals with the continuity of personality, and of memory and the activity, in Paradise. It is clear and reverent, though somewhat dogmatic. We are told that "the Anglican Church has always discouraged prayers to the dead, or invocation of saints; but prayers for the dead she has encouraged." We do not pray

that the departed "may be delivered from pain and suffering, neither do we ask that they may be pardoned. But we may ask for an increase in their growth towards perfection. We may ask for an increase in their purification, their knowledge, their peace, their rest and happiness." Mr. Jones repeats the fallacious argument of Luckock that "prayers for the departed were used in the worship of the Synagogue which our Lord Himself regularly attended and took part in. He never said a word against it, thus showing that He agreed with it" (p. 76). We have no hesitation in saying that there is not the slightest evidence that in any of the synagogues in Palestine prayers were offered for the dead in the days of our Lord. About fifty fragments of the prayers used in public and in private about the time of Christ have been preserved in the Talmud, and not one of these contains anything even approaching prayers for the departed.

TYPES OF CHRISTIAN SAINTLINESS. By William Ralph Inge, D.D.
London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. sewed; 2s. cloth, net.

In three lectures delivered to the London Diocesan Girls' Association Dr. Inge discusses the chief characteristics of Catholic, Protestant, and Liberal Christianity as represented in the Church of England, indicating the best effects, and most probable dangers, in regard to holiness of life which each is calculated to produce. This course of a study is opportune and fruitful: opportune, for we are troubled by acute controversies; fruitful, for a true spirit of charity is hereby engendered. The reader's anticipation that Dr. Inge will prove an instructive and thoughtful guide will not be disappointed, although entire agreement with him may not be possible. The statement that "the idea of holiness is characteristically Catholic" is not correct. Have not Protestants proclaimed the need of "justification" in a legal sense, argued the possibility of attaining to "perfection," and cultivated practical holiness by such movements as the Keswick Convention? The chapter on Protestantism makes no mention of the doctrine of "justification by faith," obscures the teaching concerning "faith" and "works," and attributes a Bibliolatry which reads the Bible "utterly uncritically" where nothing more is meant than disinclination to accept the unproved results of modern extravagance of criticism. More modern examples of Liberalism than Whichcote and the Cambridge Platonists could be readily found and would be more useful. It must be admitted that the author has evidently laboured under severe restrictions of space, and that with all its defects this is a helpful book.

THE WAR AND RELIGIOUS IDEALS. By the Rev. C. L. Drawbridge.
London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. 6d. net, cloth; 1s. sewed.

The output of volumes dealing with various aspects of the present war has been prodigious, but a welcome will be extended to this book by the well-known writer and speaker on Christian Apologetics. Mr. Drawbridge has come into contact with a great number of people—whom most parish clergy are also encountering—who proclaim that the war shows the bankruptcy of Christianity; who affirm that England, if she were really a Christian nation, would not be fighting; and who even go on to declare that the fact of the war is the negation of God. It was to meet these and such-like questions that the present little book has been written, and it is

well worth perusal. The first chapter deals with the German Imperial ideal, and covers ground with which Professor Cramb and others have made us familiar. This sketch is then followed by a few pages on the theory of the survival of the fittest as applied to nations, a brief chapter in which Mr. Drawbridge shows how transient the present German ideal must be. The third and most important chapter deals with the Christian ideal of war, and the writer faces fairly and definitely many of the queries which are being raised in the minds of people by the war.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERIES IN EGYPT, PALESTINE, AND MESOPOTAMIA. By the Rev. J. Politeyan, B.A., with Foreword by the Rev. Canon R. B. Girdlestone, M.A. London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

Last year Mr. Politeyan gave a course of lectures at the L.J.S. Summer School at Swanwick. These lectures are now published in a book form, together with sixteen illustrations and maps. The author has carefully read the authorities on the subject, and has selected certain points of history and archæology which throw light on, and confirm the veracity of, the Old Testament narratives. The book covers a very wide area—in fact, from Genesis to Ezra—and discourses in a happy-go-lucky way on many topics. Mr. Politeyan is reverent, and does not lose sight of the spiritual side of the subject. He hits the "Higher Critics" sometimes deservedly, and occasionally undeservedly. He shows that the art of writing was known centuries before Moses, and hazards the suggestion that the Garden of Eden was in Armenia (the author has Armenian blood in him!), and follows Naville by taking the word "day" in Genesis i. as equivalent to a "period of time." The book is not intended for experts. In spite of minor inaccuracies and want of system in the treatment, the general Bible reader will find much in the book to help him.

HISTORY IN PROPHECY. Studies for Pilgrims in the Present Crisis. By the Rev. William Baillie, M.A. Pp. 88. London: *Charles J. Thynne*. Price 1s. 6d. net.

This little volume, which is dedicated to the memory of the late Canon Garratt of Ipswich, is written from the standpoint of the Historicist School of Prophecy, the particular outline of interpretation of the Book of Revelation being that which was maintained by Canon Garratt himself. Mr. Baillie evidently believes that the Lord's coming is very near. He does not regard the present war as being the final one, though he thinks it is leading on to the end. He sees the fulfilment of prophecy in the passing of the Turkish Empire, and thinks the third war of the Apocalypse will be connected with Russia (Gog and Magog). The two horns on the second "Beast" of Revelation xiii. are connected with the two little horns of Daniel, and are taken as indicating a union of the Roman and Greek Churches under one head in the time of the end. The book is admirably adapted to the present time, and we wish it an extensive circulation and a large number of readers.

SEEING THE INVISIBLE. By the Rev. N. A. Ross, M.A., LL.D. (Johannesburg). London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

A little volume of sermons that have in them the ring of the old Gospel of redeeming grace. They have been selected to cover a wide range of

subjects. There is one, for instance, on the Lord's Supper, and another on suicide. In these days of confused thought and speech it is refreshing to find plain words upon the Real Presence: "There is no miracle by which the bread and wine are changed or transubstantiated into the actual Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. Such a change we hold to be unscriptural, irrational, and naturally impossible. It is also repugnant to the nature of the ordinance, to its very idea and intention." There is no mistaking the preacher's position. He proceeds to speak of "seeing Jesus" (his text is John xii. 21) as (1) the Revealer, (2) the Reconciler, (3) the Redeemer. The subject of suicide is dealt with in a sermon entitled "Is Life Worth Living?" and he shows it to be (1) self-murder, (2) moral cowardice, (3) a blunder—a huge miscalculation. These references will serve to show the orderly method of these excellent discourses. Preachers, experienced and inexperienced, will find here much that is suggestive and helpful.

HEAVEN ON EARTH, AND HOW IT WILL COME. By Aunt Kate. London: *Marshall Brothers*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

Who "Aunt Kate" may be we have not the least idea, and we have, indeed, no wish to pierce the veil of anonymity. But she is certainly as courageous as she is capable, for she has attempted the elucidation of what is confessedly one of the most difficult books in the Bible—the Book of the Revelation. We are not prepared to accept all her conclusions, but we are bound to admit that she has accomplished the task she set herself with very considerable skill. Primarily intended for the young, we think it probable that many older folk will turn to these pages with interest. The Divine benediction is promised to those who study this book of the Apocalypse: "Blessed is he that readeth . . . the words of this prophecy."

RECENT DISCOVERIES ILLUSTRATING EARLY CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WORSHIP.

By Arthur John Maclean, D.D., Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Second edition revised. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 2s. net.

This little book contains much interesting information regarding Christian life and worship in the early ages, and especially in the fourth century. For instance, in the Church Order called "The Testament of our Lord" (*circa* A.D. 350) we are told that late comers to church had to wait till they were brought in by the deacon, who offered the following petition on their behalf in the Litany: "For this brother who is late, let us beseech that the Lord may give him earnestness and labour, and turn away from him every bond of the world" (p. 84).

THE BOOK OF JUDGES. By H. C. O. Lanchester, M.A. *Cambridge University Press*. Price 1s. 6d. net.

This new volume of Revised Version for schools gives just the necessary introduction and notes that a school-boy may need. The Book of Judges is divided by the author into three sections, the central one being composed, after 622 B.C., from ancient records. The other two sections are "undoubtedly ancient and of great historical importance," though "added to the book after the completion of the Deuteronomic edition." From a teacher's point of view we doubt the wisdom of introducing J, E and D into a book intended for children. Is it right or wise to tell children that the exploits of Samgar (iii. 31) are "probably unhistorical"?

WITNESSES TO THE CHRISTIAN CREED. By T. Herbert Bindley, D.D.
London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s. net.

This is a very useful little book. It contains "extracts from pagan and Christian writers bearing on Christian practice and doctrine to A.D. 325." The extracts are from such writers as Suetonius, Tacitus, Ignatius, and Polycarp, as well as from documents like the Didache and the Shepherd of Hermes, and should prove helpful to the general reader. The extracts are all given in English, together with a brief account of the writer.

THE COURAGE OF HOPE. By the Rev. J. O. F. Murray, D.D. Lay Reader Headquarters, Dean's Yard, Westminster. Price 1s. net.

This book consists of three addresses given by the Master of Selwyn College to the Lay Readers of the Diocese of Southwark during last Lent. The subjects of the addresses are "Faith," "Hope," and "Love," and they provide some stimulating reading. We hope they will be read widely, even though some may cavil at the "larger hope" which appears on a couple of pages.

THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE. By the Rev. William C. Tuting, D.D. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s. net.

This book attempts to give an idea of the world at the time of our Lord's birth, and in a short space describes "The Preparation of the Gentile World for Christ," "The Religious and Moral Condition of the World," "The Persistence" and "Passing of Paganism," and "The Victory of Christianity." It is a book which will be read with interest and profit.

THE CHRISTIANIZING OF CHINA. By Edwin A. Pratt. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s. 6d. net.

This book presents a brief sketch of the Christian work which is going on in China at the present time. The writer does so because he believes that everything in China—"faiths, habits, customs, aspirations, outlook on life"—have been thrown into the melting-pot, and that it depends upon the efforts of Christian missionaries whether the new China is to be Christian or Agnostic. The book is pleasantly written, and will be read with interest.

THE LIGHT OF ONE DAY. By Isa J. Postgate. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s. 6d.

This little book consists of a series of short, simple stories, the point of them being to inculcate ideas associated with the "advanced" section of the Church of England.

A MARTYR'S SERVANT. By Arthur Shearly Cripps. London: Duckworth and Co. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This volume forms one of the Roadmender Series, a series well known to readers of Michael Fairless. The story, which is autobiographical in form, describes the experiences of John Kent, the protomartyr of Mashonaland, in the middle of the sixteenth century.

HINDUISM IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. By Elizabeth A. Reed. London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price 5s. net.

The title of this book is somewhat misleading, for, instead of being an attempt to examine and put on record the ramifications of Hinduism in Europe and America, it is rather a summary of Hinduism, with some warnings for those for whom Hinduism might have a superficial attraction.

LAWS OF LOVE. By E. M. Howell-Smith. London: *C. J. Thynne*. Price 1s. net.

In his Foreword to this manual Dr. J. H. Townsend says that he has never met with one that appealed to his mind quite in the same way as does this little book. It consists of a series of short instructions on the Ten Commandments, and is just the book to put into the hands of Confirmation candidates and young communicants. Here, as Dr. Townsend says, "a young heart speaks to other young hearts with simple, pure devotion to God and to His law."

STUDIES IN THE SECOND EPISTLE OF ST. PETER. By E. Iliff Robson, B.D. *Cambridge University Press*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

A technical essay, advocating the theory that the Second Epistle of Peter is not homogeneous, but consists of four "possibly Petrine fragments," which have been added to and thrown into epistolary form by a subsequent editor.



Publications of the Month.

[Insertion under this heading neither precludes nor guarantees a further notice.]

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.

THE DIVINE PROGRAMME: SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS STUDY. By the Rev. Canon R. B. Girdlestone, M.A. (*C. J. Thynne*. 1s. net.) No. 3 of the "Aids to Prophetic Study," issued in connection with the Prophecy Investigation Society. An interesting and useful work by one of the most careful and accurate of living Bible students. Canon Girdlestone is a guide who can always be trusted.

THE HOPE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Bible Study Notes. By the Rev. G. C. Walker, B.A. (*Edgeley Press, Ltd.* 1s.) A thoughtful and suggestive work, showing a wide reading course of reading.

THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND RELIGION. An Aftermath from the Writings of the Right Hon. Professor Max Müller. By His Wife. (*Constable and Co., Ltd.* 1s.) A reprint in "Constable's Shilling Net Series" of a well-known work.

DIVINE CLUES TO SACRED PROPHECY. By the Rev. E. H. Horne. (*C. J. Thynne*. 1s. net.) A second impression of a work first issued fourteen years ago, but now "God's prophetic outline" has gained a new interest; and as it "can never be out of date," the author has not found it necessary to alter a single word.

WAR LITERATURE.

THE ROLL-CALL OF SERVING WOMEN. By Mary Frances Billington. (*Religious Tract Society*. 3s. 6d.) A most interesting volume, giving a record of woman's work for combatants and sufferers in the great war. Miss Billington's picturesqueness of style gives additional charm to this stirring story of woman's activities which made themselves felt in the very earliest stages of the war, and have been increasing in volume ever since. We like the book immensely; its own interest is great, and it will be a useful record of the part—the noble part—women have taken in the great war.

PRIVATE 7,664: A FAITHFUL SOLDIER OF THE BRAVE WORCESTERS. By Edward Smith, J.P. (*Religious Tract Society*. 6d. net.) A selection from the letters of this gallant soldier, who gave his life for his country. A deeply religious man; his life was a standing witness to the power of the Gospel. This is just the book to place in the hands of a young soldier.

THE BOWMEN AND OTHER LEGENDS OF THE WAR. By Arthur Machen. (*Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd.* 1s. net.) A collection of "legends" which have appeared