

Notices of Books.

THE CONCEPTION OF THE CHURCH. No. XIII. of the "Liverpool Board of Divinity Publications," by the Rev. Canon J. G. Simpson, D.D., Canon and Precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. net.

This volume of three lectures concludes a series of nine, all of which have been included under the title of "The Religion of the Atonement," more particularly appropriated to the first three. The writer's standpoint with regard to both Church and ministry is set forth as follows: "The historical Church is of the *esse* of Christianity, and the historical ministry is of the *esse* of the Church." At the same time, he is candid enough to declare his belief that "the time has now come when, in the interests alike of truth and charity, traditional views require to be restated." And in the three lectures which comprise this little volume an attempt is made to suggest the lines upon which such a reinterpretation may proceed.

It is quite in accordance with Canon Simpson's broad-mindedness that we find the late Principal Lindsay's monumental work on "The Church and the Ministry" included among the books that may be consulted for fuller treatment of the subject to which he has addressed himself.

The three lectures are entitled "The Church in the New Testament," "The Authority of the Christian Ministry," "The World's Need of a Catholic Church."

It is startling to read in Lecture I. (p. 3), "We must never think of Jesus Christ as the founder of the Church. This is to mistake the true relation of the community or people of God to the fulfilment of the eternal purpose." And no less arresting is the expression (pp. 13, 14), "the popular fallacy that Pentecost was the birthday of the Church." This is to "think of the Church as though it issued from the wounded Christ, as Athena sprang from the brain of Zeus." Again (p. 8), "We must not think of Jesus as having formally organized a society of which the apostolic community at Jerusalem was the original embodiment, and which then extended itself by an orderly process of development according to fixed rules laid down by the Master Himself."

This, and much more besides, is interesting as a "restatement," though the reader may be pardoned if he does not find himself in complete agreement with the author's line of argument.

Lecture II.—"The Authority of the Christian Ministry"—opens with a strong criticism of Dr. Gore's work, "The Church and the Ministry," but goes on to declare "the great debt which the Church of England owes to the book." Dr. Simpson is quite candid, and even generous, in his treatment of this subject. The appointment of the Twelve by the Lord was simply "a provision for the immediate necessities of His mission" (p. 30). "There is no hint in the New Testament of what we call apostolic succession" (p. 6). "There is nothing to suggest that the apostolic Church regarded all functions of ministry as inherent in the Apostles in virtue of their appointment by Christ, or as transmissible to others only in virtue of the laying on of apostolic

hands." And again: "When we examine what the New Testament teaches on the subject of ministry, we find that it is contemplated under categories very different from that of succession" (pp. 36, 37).

It is interesting to read that "we have no reason to suppose that there were no elders in Antioch until these officers had received the imposition of hands from the Twelve at Jerusalem, or from intermediaries commissioned by the sacred college. Probability is on the side of variety in the first beginnings of the Christian communities" (p. 44). Canon Simpson's picture of the Church life in the first days suggests close unity, with a manifest absence of uniformity. And the reader asks, If this was not displeasing to the Apostles of the Lord, why should the like be so distasteful to their boasted "successors" to-day? There is much in this second lecture that might well call for comment, but lack of space forbids. It must suffice to add that, with the "Kikuyu question" in view, it is a most valuable contribution to a difficult question.

"The World's Need of a Catholic Church" is dealt with in Lecture III. The calamity which has overtaken the civilization of Europe is a proof of the impotence of "our imperfectly expressed Christianity," and thoughtful Christians have now reached a point when they can begin to appreciate the force of the contention that "the supreme need of the hour is a Catholic Church." Two tasks confront us in the immediate future—the first is the problem of international law, the second is the criticism of the imperial idea. And the sooner these are dealt with the better.

MOHAMMED OR CHRIST? By S. M. Zwemer, D.D., F.R.G.S. London: Seeley Service and Co. Price 5s. net.

This is an arresting book and one to read in war-time. Islam becomes a living, striving, pulsating thing before one's eyes as we read, and Dr. Zwemer is able to convince us of the tremendous importance of the very nerve centres of which the fortunes are bound up in the present conflict. Cairo—Constantinople—Arabia—Persia—Russia—here are the places whence Islam draws its strength and where it finds its rallying points. Cairo the brain of Islam, Arabia its heart, Constantinople its political centre. The style is easy, clear, vivid, "readable." It carries one along without effort, and we catch something of the eager enthusiasm of an author who speaks with first-hand knowledge and with authority. The book tells of to-day—and of to-morrow. It is published in the midst of a war which finds Christians and Mohammedans as combatants on both sides. Whatever happens, nothing can ever be the same again. The religious contests of the past are small in comparison with the approaching conflict in Western Asia. European education, modern commercial methods, and a sharp succession of near Eastern wars have stirred up the sleeping Moslem world, and it is now all movement. The claims of Jesus Christ, of the Bible, of Christianity are being actively discussed, and the modern attitude of the educated Moslem towards them is made clear by extremely interesting quotations from the Mohammedan press. The unrivalled Arabic language, more widely used than any other in the world, must be "captured" for the spread of Christ's Gospel, and there are great possibilities in the increasing use of the Arabic Bible and other Christian literature.

There are about 200 million Mohammedans in the world, of whom 167 millions are under Christian rule, no less than 90 millions being under the

British King. The sword has been taken out of the hand of Islam. One of the most fascinating chapters in the book is that which tells the romantic story of Russia and its relation to this. Only 6½ per cent. of the whole Moslem world population is now under Ottoman rule. In Java there are over 24,000 converts from Islam, and more than 300 baptisms every year.

"But look beyond. In every unoccupied part of the field there is such unique opportunity as never has been since the days of the Apostles; and there are glorious impossibilities in these unoccupied fields. There is the greater part of Russian Asia, there are four provinces in Arabia, there is one province in Persia without a single missionary. It is easy for us to sing as soldiers of the Cross, 'like a mighty army moves the Church of God.' It does not move. It hugs the trenches, and out there you are leaving single workers to die alone—lonely soldiers who have waited long for reinforcements, with hope deferred, but with hearts on fire. Thank God also for the inspiration of the pioneers who died not having received the promise. No part of the world has a richer heritage of predecessors. Upon whom has their mantle fallen? Who will smite the Jordan and see it part asunder? Where is the Lord God of Henry Martyn and Keith Falconer—the God of Parsons and Fiske, of Goodell and Dwight, of Hamlin, Van Dyck, and Bishop French? He can do it if He will."

So the book pleads, and we are glad of such a witness and are moved by it. Bishop Stileman's introduction testifies to the author's right to speak and warn. There is a great land waiting to be possessed.

W. HEATON RENSHAW.

THE WAR AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD. By H. L. Goudge, D.D.; Peter Green, M.A.; H. S. Holland, D.D.; J. G. Simpson, D.D. Edited by G. K. A. Bell, M.A. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

WAR-TIME SERMONS. By H. Hensley Henson, D.D., Dean of Durham. London: *MacMillan and Co., Ltd.* Price 4s. 6d. net.

The outbreak of the great war found the country unprepared not only in men and munitions, but in the capacity of the clergy to present a reasoned statement of the obligations of Christian persons in such a catastrophe. The volumes mentioned above contain evidence of uneasiness on the part of all the writers as to the lawfulness of undertaking combatant duties. At heart Dr. Henson is neither a fatalist nor an impugner of Christian faith, but in practice he becomes both by maintaining that war is indispensable. Canon Green unwittingly provides an *apologia* for agnosticism by contending that all war is immoral, and that England's only moral course on August 4, 1914, was a declaration of war. These two conflicting propositions he endeavours to harmonize by the reflection that in practical life we cannot choose what is right, but only the least pernicious of two possible evil actions. If this is the teaching of Christian ethics, unbelief is justified.

It is surprising that English Churchmen should not refer to the thirty-seventh Article. Happily the present issue is not confused, as both these books fully admit, by any thought that our part in the conflict is unwarranted or wrong. To our mind the non-resistance teaching of our Saviour is individual and prohibitive of revenge. The attitude invariably taken by our Lord, John the Baptist, St. Peter, and St. Paul towards officers and men of the Roman army convinces us that, as there are occasions when the Christian

may appeal to Caesar, so there are times when the ruler may with perfect legitimacy and propriety appeal to the sword.

Apart from this one topic these essays and sermons contain much spiritual teaching of the loftiest order, and many timely protests against errors frequently heard in conversation. It is the more to be regretted that the presentation of this vital truth is impaired by uncertainties which in the present mood of the country will only excite prejudice.

THE FAITH AND THE WAR. A series of essays by members of the Churchmen's Union and others on the religious difficulties aroused by the present condition of the world. Edited by the Rev. F. J. Foakes-Jackson, D.D. London: *Macmillan and Co.* Price 5s. net.

This volume of essays, from the names of its contributors and the gravity of the subjects discussed, is of more than ordinary importance, and will amply repay the most careful study. There is no attempt made to secure anything approaching uniformity. The several questions are viewed from the different standpoints of the gifted writers; and the object of the series is to hold out "helping hands," rather than "a helping hand," to "those who are in distress, that every one may grasp the hand most likely to assist him." Sometimes there is observable a complete difference in the outlook of different contributors, but the general plan of the volume is fairly obvious.

In a few lines it is this: The first difficulty which must present itself to all is the question whether the world of human affairs is governed by a Divine Providence or not. This question is dealt with in the three opening essays—the workings of Providence in the individual being traced by Professor Percy Gardner, F.B.A.; in history, by Miss Gardner; and in the universe, by the Editor. The fourth essay is the crucial question, "The Problem of Evil," and is dealt with by Dr. Hastings Rashdall, F.B.A. Then follows a second group of three essays, in which the endeavour is to discuss the three means by which the fact of the existence of evil in the world can be reconciled with the belief in its Divine government. In this connection the Dean of St. Paul's deals with "Hope," Alfred Edward Taylor, F.B.A., with "The Belief in Immortality," and the Rev. E. A. Burroughs with "Faith and Reality." It is quite natural that a place should be found in these pages for some treatment of the ethics of war, and Essays VIII. and IX. discuss the questions "War and the Ethics of the New Testament" and "What is a Christian Nation?" The last essay is constructive in its character: under the title "The Church of England after the War," the Dean of Durham suggests methods by which the problems confronting the Church at the close of hostilities may be dealt with.

It is a trifling point to raise, but there is an error in the title-page, where the reference should be Heb. xii. 27.

IN THE WAKE OF THE WAR CANOE. By W. H. Collison. London: *Seeley Service and Co.* Price 5s. net.

Archdeacon Collison has given us in a book of 350 pages, and in simple conversational language, a record of his forty years' ministry among the Indians of the great North-West, which surpasses in romantic adventure, as Bishop Chadwick points out in his preface to the book, anything that Captain Marryat ever set forth for adventure-loving youth. It was in 1873 that the then young Collison, a student in the Church Missionary College, was asked

to go out to Metlakahtla to work with William Duncan, who had first opened up a mission in that region about fifteen years before. Young Collison was further enjoined to seek out a suitable lady to take with him as wife, and the after history of his work shows how good a choice was made. Collison was permitted by God to take Christ's Gospel to Indian tribes who had never heard it before, and has had the wonderful experience of seeing absolutely heathen communities become, in time, entirely Christian. He was the first missionary to go out to the Queen Charlotte Islands, where he was deposited in an unknown and semi-hostile community, of which he did not even know the language. The Haida tribes inhabiting these islands had the reputation of the greatest ferocity, and it was freely prophesied that he and his wife would speedily be murdered. The story of their life and work there and of the gradual winning of the people to Jesus Christ, the battles with the medicine men and the influencing of suspicious chiefs, until the day comes when the whole life and civilization of the entire community is Christian and the Mission is in the charge of the pioneer missionary's son, now grown up and ordained, who is accompanied by Miss Collison, who, twenty-three years before, had been the first white child to be born on Queen Charlotte Islands—this is the story of Archdeacon Collison's life-work and the story that largely fills the measure of the book. There is much also of other fields of the greatest interest. There is much of adventure, of danger, of resource. Innumerable sidelights on the picturesque and quaint customs of the Indians help us to realize some of the difficulty of taking the message of the Cross and securing its being heard. It has all been done, and bravely done, and the names in the book are names of men and women who have won great tracts of country for the Saviour who died for all the world. The Church is rich in the possession of such pioneers, and our author is one whom we delight to honour. The volume is well printed and bound and has excellent illustrations.

NUTS FROM AN OLD BAG. Bible Questions for Boys and Girls. By the Rev. Rhys Davies. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 2s. net.

Those who have to give addresses to young people cannot, in these days, complain of any lack of material. Here is another volume in an excellent series. Some idea of the method may be given by saying that Mr. Davies' first question is, "How old are you?" (Gen. xlvii. 8), and his subject is "Counting Birthdays." Useful lessons are drawn from it, and there are twenty-five other studies on the same lines.

THE LAD AT THE CROSS-ROADS. Being some Sidelights in the Lives of Working Lads. By the Rev. Walter E. Bristow, M.A. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 2s. net.

The lad is one of the Church's greatest problems. As Mr. Bristow very truly observes, "the lad from the factory differs but little from the lad from Eton: outwardly, yes; inwardly, no." Deeply conscious of the fact that "the lad stands at the cross-roads," and with a large experience and genuine sympathy with young life, Mr. Bristow tells of some lads he has known; how they met their enemy; of their battle, and what it meant to them; of their conquests and defeats. A strong, courageous, common-sense tone pervades this book, which the Bishop of Peterborough justly describes in his "foreword" as being "as straight, true, and manly, as anything can be."

FROM DOUBT TO FAITH. By Horace G. Hutchinson. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. 6d. net.

The thoughtful man always takes up such a volume as this with feelings of sympathy and respect. He feels that the man who has had to fight his way through into the light, who has had honest doubts, is entitled to sympathy. We are grateful to Mr. Hutchinson for having told us so clearly and candidly why he was an Agnostic, and for having taken us with him through the maze of unbelief out into the liberty of faith. Those who, happily, have never been troubled with doubts may read these pages with profit, and find in them much that may be useful in understanding and dealing with difficulties which others feel.

SUNDAY EPISTLES. Studies for the Christian Year. By Canon J. H. B. Masterman, M.A. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 2s. net.

These studies, or sermonettes, which originally appeared in the *Church Family Newspaper*, have been, by request, gathered together in this more permanent form. They will be found useful by preachers, for they are thoughtful, clear, brief, and scholarly. Those who are on the lookout for a suitable book of readings to give to persons who are deprived of the privilege of attending the house of prayer will welcome this volume. We cannot remember when we saw anything of the kind that pleased us better.

OUR WONDERFUL BIBLE. By Gertrude Hollis. With Illustrations. London: *S.P.C.K.* Price 2s. net.

This is uniform with, and belongs to the same series as, "Our Wonderful Cathedrals" by the same authoress, noticed in our issue of last October. It is written in an instructive and attractive style, and presents the reader with a vast, but condensed, amount of interesting information. There are eight excellent illustrations. The writer does not seem to believe in verbal instruction, and in a book largely intended for children we should have preferred less being said about difficulties in the Bible.

[For Publications of the Month, see over.]