

Notices of Books.

GREATER MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIBLE. Vol. v. Mary-Simon.
 Edited by Dr. Hastings. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Subs. price
 6s. net.

Those who have already secured the four Old Testament volumes of "Greater Men and Women" have been eagerly anticipating the publication of the first of the two New Testament volumes. The treatment of the Old Testament characters has been so fresh and stimulating that we have been not a little curious to see similar treatment given to the even more familiar people in the Gospel story. It has come now all in a flood, and we have a book which deals with eighteen Gospel characters, of which the larger spaces are given to the Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, Judas Iscariot, and Thomas, but which also include very interesting and fascinating studies of Martha and Mary, Herod, Nicodemus, and five more of the twelve besides Thomas and Judas, who have already been mentioned. Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Simon of Cyrene are men connected in different ways with the Crucifixion, who all find a place here. The result is a volume of much attraction. The great names of Peter, John, and Paul are left for the later volume, as are those names which come before us only in the Acts and Epistles. The opening article deals with "Mary the Virgin," to whom thirty-four pages are given. Her life as told in the New Testament is first outlined, and the elements (five) of her character are then indicated. It is most beautifully and winsomely done, and there is abundant material here, as the writer has himself proved, for a very reverent and acceptable sermon on the Annunciation. The wide range of the book is fairly well shown by the fact that the next character dealt with is that of Herod the Great, who gets fourteen pages, in which the violence and viciousness of his nature is vividly set forth. John the Baptist with fifty-seven pages and Judas with fifty-five get the most attention, and these important characters are very carefully dealt with under the respective headings of (1) John and the Jews, (2) John and Jesus, (3) John and Herod; and Judas—(1) The Man, (2) The Apostle, (3) The Traitor and (4) The Example. The book is, of course, well worth buying and will stimulate many a jaded mind and set going many a helpful thought. Appropriate poetical quotations are still a feature of the series, as are extracts from a variety of allied literature and lists of suitable books on each "greater person" discussed.

W. HEATON RENSHAW.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S VISIT TO THE FRONT. By his Chaplain. London:
Longmans, Green and Co. Price 2s. 6d. net.

As this is the seventh impression of this little book in less than a year, it is quite clear that it has met with a consistent demand. It is nicely bound and illustrated, and no doubt many who were privileged to meet and to hear the Bishop in France will keep a copy as a "souvenir." It was written by Mr. Vernon Smith, who accompanied the Bishop during the visit, and he has wisely given us a chatty and detailed account from day to day of the actual happenings and the impressions made at the time. The account was written immediately after the visit. It gives a most interesting view, from an unusual angle, of the conditions amid which our troops live and fight, rest and play, in northern France; and it shows, very attractively, the eager welcome which staff, officers, and men give to religious ministrations and to

such an evangelical message as that which the Bishop brought. The Bishop's energy and enthusiasm are easily felt as the story is read. It is natural that there should be something of hero-worship in the book, which is in any case marked by great courtesy and kindness to all concerned. The Russian Liturgy which the Bishop used is printed as an appendix, and a reproduction of the "Bishop's Souvenir" is also included.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN SOUTH AMERICA. By Bishop E. F. Every, D.D.
London: S.P.C.K. Price 2s. 6d. net.

It cannot be said that Churchpeople at home know as much as they should about the difficult and isolated "parishes" in South America, and the S.P.C.K. is to be congratulated and thanked for having published this useful handbook. Great Britain has commercial and financial interests in South America which the Bishop of St. Albans, in his preface, describes as "vast," and it is the Church's duty and clear call to shepherd the European populations which result from these interests. Bishop Every was Bishop of the Falkland Isles until 1910, when that astoundingly enormous diocese was divided, and he became the first Bishop in Argentina and Eastern South America. The book is furnished with illustrations, statistics, and details of many kinds. It gives information which will come as news to very many ordinary Church folk here in England. There are great problems to solve and large areas to cover, and there is a sustained demand for men of consecrated ability and for sympathy and support from the Homeland. The work of the South American Missionary Society and of The Missions to Seamen finds special and kindly mention, and particulars are given of work by the Brazilian Episcopal Church and other active American efforts. "American religious enterprise in South America is on a far greater scale than British." The British and Foreign Bible Society is doing a "wonderful work."

CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS. By W. Cunningham, D.D., F.B.A., Archdeacon of Ely. London: *John Murray*. Price 6s. net.

The most troublesome questions of the Christian religion are not those of metaphysical theology such as harassed the Council of Nicæa, nor those of ecclesiastical doctrine such as perplexed the Council of Trent, the Westminster Divines, and the Lambeth Conferences, but those which arise in ever-varying aspects from the application of Christian truth to daily conduct. Eras of rapid development are ushered in by periods of great unrest. The conversion of the Empire in the fourth century, the rejection of a central authority at Rome by the rising aspirations of national life in the sixteenth, the industrial revolution of the nineteenth, not only caused a demand for the review of the theological formularies, but occasioned the relapses into unbelief of the apostasy of Julian, the pantheism of Padua, and the more ignorant and blatant infidelity of our own times. But in each case the paramount interest was ethical, the necessity of adapting to life the increased apprehension of the most vital truth. The great War now devastating some of the fairest portions of the world is the outcome of conflicting religious ideals striving to shape themselves in actual practice.

Dr. Cunningham considered the "bearing of Christian teaching on the life of the community" in the Lowell lectures of 1914, and reproduces here their substance revised and enlarged that the issues raised by the War might not be omitted. An historic analysis in the first four chapters of the various endeavours of the Churches of Rome and England, of Presbyterianism and Congregationalism, to determine the attitude which the Church ought to adopt towards the State, shows in the light of experiment the failures of the

past. The allusions to the War, and the appendix on *the attitude of the Church towards war*, are amongst the most forcible writings which the terrible disaster has produced. The later chapters are not quite so convincing. In the review of social movements by individual effort, legislative enactment, friendly-society labours, and trade-union hopes, the author has not sufficiently taken into account the religious principles at stake, and consequently becomes too political. The advocacy of a limitation of Christian teaching to a general encouragement of every man to fulfil his duties to others is too abstract. The abolition of the slave trade and the passing of humanitarian factory laws were not accomplished by such exhortations. The Christian principles of temperance and responsibility do not enable us to decide how Parliament can best cope with the evils of drink and lust, and it may be imprudent for the Churches to be too closely identified with any one of the suggested actions. Theoretical Christianity is conducive to pacificism, but unforeseen occurrences in August, 1914, have persuaded most of us that better preparations for war would have enabled us to more adequately discharge our obligations to Belgium. Some classification of the intricate puzzles of life, by which we would see more distinctly where the Church should dictate the course to be followed, where it should be content to assert moral principles and leave their application indefinite, and where the obscurity of present knowledge may give vent to an impracticable idealism, is necessary; and this has yet to be undertaken. But if Dr. Cunningham fails to entirely dispel the difficulties of centuries, his book is worthy of close study, will give a needful stimulus to thought, and will not be fruitless in the midst of existing anxieties.

THE CREED OF A YOUNG CHURCHMAN. A manual for Confirmation Candidates and other young Churchpeople. By H. A. Wilson, M.A. London: Robert Scott. Price 2s. net.

There are no two opinions as to the value of the period of preparation for Confirmation in winning our young people to Christ and to the Church. Literary helps in the exposition of the Catechism and the explanation of the baptismal vows abound, but suitable books for instruction in the position and doctrine of the Church of England historically considered are few. Mr. Wilson very successfully endeavours to supply the want. A readable account, pleasantly written, adapted to the intelligence of youths of sixteen, of what the Church of England is will appeal to many. Parents and godparents, as well as Bible Class teachers, will find here an excellent book to put into the hands of their charges, supplementing it wherever this may be possible with fuller oral lessons. The work is thoroughly Evangelical in tone, and with commendable tact and wisdom Mr. Wilson has given attention to simplicity and directness of statement rather than to originality in thought and expression. This volume has only to be known to be used.

THE CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY. By the Rev. S. P. T. Prideaux, B.D. London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd. Price 2s. net.

This is a short and excellent account of the times of Christ, written in a most readable manner, and specially useful to theological students, Sunday School teachers, and Christian workers. The writer holds that it is necessary for students of the New Testament, if they would acquire an adequate knowledge of the subject, to gain a clear idea of the conditions of life in Palestine in the time of our Lord; and gives a great amount of valuable information in the course of the eight chapters, which are the outgrowth from two courses of lectures delivered in the diocese of Winchester, under the auspices of the Society for Promoting Higher Religious Education. The book is marked by scholarship, lucidity, and compactness.

DICTIONARY OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH. Edited by James Hastings, D.D., with the assistance of John A. Selbie, D.D., and John C. Lambert, D.D. Vol. I (Aaron—Lystra). Edinburgh: *T. and T. Clark*. Price 21s. net.

This is the age of dictionary making and of dictionary makers. Dr. Hastings is *facile princeps*. He has already edited the "Dictionary of the Bible," the one-volume "Bible Dictionary," the "Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels," and eight volumes of the "Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics." Now we welcome Vol. I of his "Dictionary of the Apostolic Church." What other dictionaries he has in store for us, we must "wait and see." In making up the list of names of those "whom the King delighteth to honour," Mr. Asquith will be doing a graceful act by including that of Dr. Hastings, for the great services which he has rendered to students of religion and ethics.

Many who have been in the habit of using the "Dictionary of Christ and the Gospel" have felt the need of a companion volume dealing with the rest of the New Testament. The "Dictionary of the Apostolic Church" is intended to supply such a need. It carries the history of the Church to the end of the first century.

The present volume is uniform with the "Dictionary of Christ and the Gospel," but contains about 200 pages less than the first volume of that dictionary. In the "Literature" at the end of each article, the authors' names are printed in somewhat bolder type. This is a welcome departure from the former custom. Doctrine, history, biography, apocryphal and pseudo-epigraphal subjects all receive adequate treatment. There are several exceptionally long articles, e.g. Prof. J. Moffatt's article on the Uncanonical Gospels extends to twenty-eight pages, and Prof. C. Anderson Scott's on Christ and Christology occupies twenty-two pages. The Rev. E. C. Dewick, Vice-Principal of St. Aidan's College, contributes a masterly article on Eschatology. He must have condensed the contents of a large volume into some eleven pages of this Dictionary. Prof. Sanday's illuminative article on Inspiration and Revelation covers only six pages. Prof. Kirsopp Lake writes on Apocryphal Acts, Prof. A. Thumb of Strassburg on Hellenistic and Biblical Greek, and Prof. F. Platt of the Wesleyan College, Handsworth, on the Atonement. Space would not allow us to quote from these articles. Every one of them maintains a high standard of excellence. Of course, it is not to be expected that every reader will endorse every single statement in a dictionary. So far as we have been able to judge, the volume is singularly free from wild theories which, however one may tolerate them in a magazine, are altogether out of a place in a permanent book of reference.

Of the less lengthy articles we may note a few. Mr. G. H. Clayton, Fellow of Peterhouse, contributes a temperate and lucid article on the Eucharist. His explanation of 1 Cor. x. 16 ("communion of the body of Christ") is excellent. Dr. Alfred Plummer's articles on Apostle, Bishop, and Church are, as usual, exact, clear, and reverent. Dr. A. J. Maclean, Bishop of Moray, Ross, and Caithness, writes the articles on Ascension, Baptism, and God. Of the importance of Ascension for the practical life he says—

"The Ascension shows that the work of Christ for man has never ceased, but is permanent, although He has never needed to repeat His sacrifice. It has brought Jesus into closer touch with us; He has never ceased to be Man, and in the heavenly sphere is not removed far away from us, but is with us until the end of the world (Matt. xxviii. 20). He raises our ideals from earthly things to heavenly; and giving us through the Spirit the new life which enables us to follow Him,

by His Ascension teaches us the great *Sursum corda*: 'Lift up your hearts; we lift them up unto the Lord'" (p. 98).

Of Baptism the Bishop says—

"To say that God uses outward means or instruments as the normal manner in which He gives His grace is not to assert, on the one hand, that all who receive the outward means receive the grace, or, on the other hand, that God cannot give the grace otherwise. Hence the emphasis on the need of repentance and faith in those who are baptized" (p. 136).

There are few contributors from the Continent. Dr. Olaf E. Moe of the University of Christiania, writes on Commandment and Law. Dr. Pierre Batifol, Prêtre catholique and prélat de la maison du Pape, has an article on Ignatius, in which he strongly upholds the authenticity of his letter to the Romans, and, as béfite un prélat de la maison du Pape, he manages to squeeze in here and there an argument in favour of the primacy of the Roman See. Another Continental contributor is Prof. von Dobschütz of the University of Breslau. The articles on Communion, Fellowship, Hellenism, and Josephus are from his pen. He regards Josephus's "Wars" as "a carefully executed work"; his "Antiquities" reproduce "what his sources supplied." In the matter of chronology "Josephus is an unsafe guide," as "events from different sources and of different dates are thrown promiscuously together." Of Josephus's testimonium de Christo, Dobschütz seems inclined to accept the Slavonic version of it discovered by Brendt, but does not give the exact words of the Slavonic version. As to the relation of St. Luke to Josephus, we are glad to find that Dobschütz does not countenance, as Prof. K. Lake seems to do in his article on the Acts, the theory of some German critics, who would bring down the date of the Acts to the beginning of the second century, on the assumption that the author of the Acts has made use of Josephus's Antiquities, which were published A.D. 93-94. He says: "The two authors, in point of fact, are obviously quite independent of each other. Thus St. Luke (xiii. 1f.) mentions a Galilean revolt of which Josephus takes no cognizance, while the three revolts recorded by Josephus as having occurred under Pilate find no mention in Luke" (p. 653).

Altogether we are more than satisfied with this Dictionary and can heartily recommend it.

K. E. KHODADAD.

SIX LITTLE BOOKLETS FOR OFFICERS AND OTHERS. By Arthur Mercer.

Price *1d.* each, or *6d.* and *1s.* in leather cover.

We have read these booklets with much enjoyment and thankfulness—enjoyment, because of their sound, sane and sober presentation of saving truth; thankfulness, because, knowing how much young officers stand in need of spiritual help, we feel that here, at last, is something which will arrest their attention. Mr. Mercer writes as a man to men, and it is clear that he has a wide knowledge of men's spiritual difficulties and of their spiritual aspirations, but what makes these booklets so valuable is the warmth of his sympathy and the directness of his appeal. The little volumes (so beautifully printed and so tastefully bound that they are a pleasure to handle) were not all issued together, they followed each other in succession as opportunity offered, and the aggregate sale has now run to upwards of a quarter of a million copies. The series is as follows: No. 1. The Greatest of all Mistakes. No. 2. Undoubtedly He is Coming Again. No. 3. The Supreme Moment of a Lifetime. No. 4. The Inevitable Separation. No. 5. Is Real Peace Possible? No. 6. Does He Really Hear? The latest of the series, dealing with prayer, is valuable for its assured tone of confident hope. But they are all well worth reading, and we most cordially commend them to those who have officers among their relatives or friends. Copies and all further information may be obtained at "Rozel," Wimbledon, S.W.

BOOKS ON THE WAR

THE WAY OF THE CROSS. By Doroshevitch. London: *Constable and Co.*
Price 2s. 6d. net.

Mr. Stephen Graham tells us in his preface that this is probably the first piece of Russian war literature that has been translated into English. Doroshevitch is a Russian journalist who enjoys a great reputation and exerts considerable influence. His literary style, though quite out of the common, has a certain fascination about it. His work, as Mr. Graham points out, consists of "short sentences, short paragraphs, word-paragraphs, dashes and marks of interrogation," and in this strikingly characteristic way he has given us a vivid but terrible picture of the sufferings of the Russian and Polish fugitives in their flight before the Germans in the autumn of last year. It is the graphic picture of an eye-witness, drawn, too, by one who is a true patriot, and who is even more than this—a Christian with a sympathetic heart. There can be no doubt that this book will survive after the war as one of the most moving accounts of an experience from which may God in His mercy deliver us!

A LIFE WELL LIVED. By John Wood. London: *S. W. Partridge and Co.*
Price 1s. 6d. net.

The touching record of the life, and containing many letters, of a Rugby boy, 1st Lieutenant J. W. Colin Taylor, 2nd Batt. Sherwood Foresters, a devoted Church worker at Northwood, Middlesex, who fell in action at Hooge, Flanders, on August 9 last. The portrait and illustrations add interest to the pleasing life-story of a stalwart young Christian, actively engaged in work for the Master, and whose letters from the Front are an inspiration to read. Just the book to give a young Christian officer.

THE TEST OF WAR. By the Rev. J. T. Plowden-Wardlaw, M.A. London:
Robert Scott. Price 2s. 6d. net.

Verily there are sermons *and* sermons! When we read some that are printed we cannot help wondering what they have done to deserve it! No one who takes up this volume and looks over the careful synopsis of each sermon, given at the beginning of the book, is likely to have that feeling. When he reads the sermons themselves he will feel that they well deserve a larger audience. Even those who are not wont to read sermons will peruse these pages with real pleasure. There are twenty-four discourses, and they deal with the war from every possible standpoint. The appeal made in one addressed to soldiers waiting for orders, and preached in King's College Chapel to some nine hundred men, must surely have been productive of good and have been remembered by all who heard it, and the same applies to the sermon on "Home Influence." Amid so much that is excellent it is not easy to fix upon particular examples, but we accord the little volume a hearty welcome.

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN SUFFERING AND THE WAR. By the Rev. F. H. Dudden, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. net.

Here are more practical, common-sense "War Sermons." They deal mainly, as the title indicates, with one subject—the greatest problem of human life—the problem of suffering. Dr. Dudden, in the first of these, wisely corrects notions which are current and which imply wrong conceptions of God. Those who are in perplexity will find much in these addresses to help them to discover "the clue of the maze."

FOR KING AND COUNTRY ; FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT ; PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS FOR THE TRENCHES. London : *Simpkin, Marshall and Co.* Price 6d. each net.

These delightful "Trench Booklets," as they are called, are attractively got up in a khaki wrapper with a gummed flap ready for posting, and without a letter they may be sent for a halfpenny. Containing uplifting messages they will be useful for sending to the Front, where they are sure to be welcome and helpful.

THE GLORY OF THE LIFE LAID DOWN. By the Rev. J. K. Swinburne, M.A., Vicar of Shifnal. London : *Elliot Stock.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

This little volume is addressed "to those in sorrow," and consists of sermons preached in Shifnal Church. Very suggestive and striking is one entitled "The White Hairs of God," based, of course, on Rev. i. 14 : "His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow"; but every page is helpful. Mr. Swinburne is a poet of no mean order, and eight of his poems appear in this book, reprinted from *The Sunday Companion*, and add greatly to the charm of the prose.



Publications of the Month.

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

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. By W. J. Sparrow-Simpson, D.D. (S.P.C.K. 3s. net.) A careful, thoughtful and reverent examination of a great theme, along very distinctly sacramental lines. From the final chapter on "The Perpetual Offering of Christ" we take the following passage :— "The reason why people do not believe in the eucharistic offering is because they have no belief in the heavenly offering of Christ. And they have no belief in the heavenly offering of Christ because they think of redemption rather as an act than as a spirit, a solitary deed rather than a moral attitude. Could we but look beyond the outward expression to the inward state, we should surely acknowledge that Christ's offering is the offering of His inmost Self, and therefore must be an offering in perpetuity."

STUDIES IN THE TEMPTATION OF THE SON OF GOD. By J. O. F. Murray, D.D. (*Longmans, Green and Co.* 2s. net.) A wonderfully uplifting book. Reprinted from the *Lay Reader Magazine*, these "Studies" will be welcomed in their permanent form.

SELF-TRAINING IN PRAYER. By A. H. McNeile, D.D. (*W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.* 1s. 3d. net.) A devotional handbook of rich beauty directed to help those who find prayer a religious duty rather than a religious experience.

FOR SOUL AND BODY. By Harriette S. Bainbridge. (*W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.* 9d. net.) A series of talks on spiritual healing, interesting but hardly conclusive.

WAR PUBLICATIONS.

IN THE HANDS OF THE HUNS. (*Simpkin, Marshall and Co.* 1s.) A volume which gives an account of fifteen months' imprisonment at Ruhleben by a British Civil Prisoner of War. With a restraining hand the Author briefly outlines the daily life and treatment in the Camp. There is evidence of the quiet British dignity under trying conditions. Several interesting extracts with illustrations are given from the *Camp Magazine* "In Ruhleben Camp." A book of absorbing interest.