

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1

A DIFFICULTY is often experienced by Theological Students and the younger clergy in procuring the books which they need for their work. Very often the students of Theological Colleges have only sufficient means to procure those text-books which are specially prescribed and therefore absolutely necessary for their studies. It is much to be regretted that many of these text-books are of a doubtful theological character, and the importance of providing students with a list of books which give a fair and accurate presentation of the history and teaching of the Church of England cannot be over-estimated, especially now when so many young soldiers are entering upon a theological course. Such a list has been compiled by "The Church Book Room" and will be sent post free on receipt of 3d.

Aimless and desultory reading in any branch of study cannot be so effective as that which is done systematically and with a clear purpose in view.

This is as true of Bible Study as of any other kind of reading,

The Bible. and a section of the list above named gives the names of a few books which it is hoped will be helpful. Of these a little pamphlet entitled *Bible Study for Personal Spiritual Growth*, by J. R. Mott (id.), *Systematic Bible Study*, by D. H. D. Wilkinson (1s.), and four books in the Anglican Church Handbook Series, *The Joy of Bible Study*, by Harrington C. Lees, *Old Testament History*, by F. E. Spencer, *Old Testament Theology*, by R. B. Girdlestone, and *New Testament Theology*, by F. S. Guy Warman, D.D. (1s. 3d. net each), will be found most useful.

"What is Christianity?" is a question often asked, and books on the Person and Work of Christ should occupy a central position in this study.

The Person of Christ. Material for answering the question is shortly and ably provided in *Christianity is Christ* (1s. 3d. net), by W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D. It is a manual for general use, and as a summary of the Christian position will prove of service to students, the younger clergy, and to the men and women in our Churches who are brought face to face with various attacks on the Christian Faith. Other books which may be specially recommended are *The Fact of Christ*, P. C. Simpson (3s. net), and *The Jesus of History*, by T. R. Glover (4s. net).

At an early stage of their theological study it is essential ordination candidates should have a clear view of what the teaching of our Church actually is, and the student cannot do better than to go to

The Teaching of the Church. Canon Barnes-Lawrence's wise and helpful compendium, *A Churchman and His Church* (1s. net). The book is free from technical expressions and is more intent to awaken thought and to refer men to the sources of belief than to dogmatize. The manual has the outstanding merit of fixing the mind of its student on the personal work of Christ and interpreting creed and ceremony, rite and institutions in the light of the revelation of the Mind of God in Holy Scripture. Its exposition of our Anglican teaching on the Church and the Lord's Supper clears away the growth of false accretions and makes plain what God has taught. Other books which should be read carefully and which contain

much which will be found helpful, are *The Catholic Faith*, by W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D., and *Scriptural and Catholic Truth and Worship*, by F. Meyrick (1s. net each).

Reliable books on the Book of Common Prayer are of importance, and several useful books were named in these notes last month. Of these may be mentioned Charles Hole's invaluable work, *A Manual of the Book of Common Prayer* (2s. 6d.), as its purpose is to assist those who are preparing for Holy Orders. In no other work of the same compass have references been furnished in so much detail to encourage and satisfy the student's inquiries among works both old and new, great and small. Other books of value are *The Tutorial Prayer Book*, by Charles Neil, and J. M. Willoughby, D.D. (3s. 6d. net), and *Outlines of Prayer Book History*, by W. Prescott Upton (2s. 6d. net). The first-named book is one of sound scholarship and lucid exposition. Every Service is carefully analysed, the history of the Prayer Book is sketched and arguments that popularly pass for convincing lessons are submitted to a rigorous criticism based on a full knowledge of documents and a comprehensive grasp of the lessons of history.

The Doctrine of the Church of England on the Holy Communion, by F. Meyrick (2s. 6d. net), was for some time used as a text-book at Trinity College, Dublin. It is a clear exposition of primitive doctrine, and as Bishop Harold Browne says in a preface. "Of the doctrine of that Church which glories in reverting to and taking hold of primitive faith and must be useful to puzzled consciences, may assure those who are in doubt, and may also help to the recruiting of the scattered members of Christ's divided body. . . ." Principal Tait's new book, *The Nature and Functions of the Sacrament* (3s. 6d. net), cannot be overlooked by any student. It is written clearly and forcibly, and in it we have definite statements which are helpful and illuminating. *Our Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving*, by P. C. Ingrouille (1s. 6d. net), is pointed and clear and contains many valuable quotations. *The New Testament Doctrine of the Holy Communion*, by G. Estwick Ford (1s. 6d. net), and *Primitive Church Teaching on the Holy Communion*, by Dean Goulburn (1s. net), should not be forgotten as they deal with particular aspects of the subject. As regards "Baptism," J. B. Mozley's *Baptismal Controversy* should be secured. It is unfortunately out of print, but second-hand copies can be obtained fairly easily for 3s. or 3s. 6d. *Baptism. What Saith the Scripture?* by D. H. D. Wilkinson (1s. 3d. net), *Infant Baptism*, by A. E. Barnes-Lawrence (1s. net) are smaller books.

The Creeds: Their History, Nature and Use, by Harold Smith (7s. 6d. net). A very valuable historical account of the Creeds and their growth. It is not an exposition, although some useful expository suggestions will be found in it.

Lecture Outlines on the Thirty-Nine Articles, by Principal Tait, is intended for use of candidates for the Ministry and the outlines have arisen out of the need which he has personally experienced in lecturing in placing in the hands of his students. Other books which may be named in this connexion are *Boulbee's Commentary on the Thirty-Nine Articles* (6s. net), Bishop Moule's *Outlines of Christian Doctrine* (3s. net), and a valuable pamphlet by B. C. Jackson entitled *The Thirty-Nine Articles* (3d. net).