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CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

A NEW edition of Canon Barnes-Lawrence's little book *The Holy Communion, Its Purpose and Privilege*, has just been issued at 1s. 3d. net, paper cover ; 1s. 9d. net, limp cloth ; and 2s. net, cloth gilt. The book has been thoroughly revised, and it will, we think, be found to

Holy Communion.

be the kind of book for clergy to give to Confirmation candidates and to the more intelligent communicants in their congregations. It is thoroughly devotional in tone, and quite simple in treatment. Five different aspects of the Holy Communion are dealt with : Its retrospective character as a Feast of Remembrance : the look back. Its reminder that the Lord, the Living Bread which came down from Heaven, has now returned thither : the look up. Its social aspect : the look around. Its intimation of the Lord's return : the look forward. Its demand for inward preparation : the look within. At the end of the book are a few notes of an explanatory kind in reference to current misconceptions of the nature of this Sacrament, and it would indeed be difficult to find in the same compass a more lucid, accurate and convincing statement of the Scriptural teaching of the Church of England in regard to the points dealt with than these notes contain.

A new pamphlet has just been issued by the CHURCH BOOK ROOM entitled *The Enabling Act and the Constitution of the National Assembly of the Church of England*, with Notes, Introduction, and Ladder of Lay

The Enabling Act.

Representation, price 6d. net. The Notes, Introduction and Ladder of Lay Representation, by Albert Mitchell, will be found of very considerable service to clergy, churchwardens, and to elected bodies under the Act. The notes answer many queries which have been found matters of difficulty to those who have been engaged in the preparation of the new Parochial Rolls, etc. In addition to this pamphlet, the Church Book Room has published a leaflet for general distribution entitled, *The New Constitution of the Church of England* ; and a pamphlet which has had a very large circulation entitled, *The Ladder of Lay Representation in the Councils of the Church of England*. These are both by Mr. Mitchell, and are sold at 2s. per 100, post free. It has also issued *Forms of Declaration as to Qualification*, with or without a form for non-resident electors ; the same printed for the card index system ; *Parochial Voting Paper* with spaces for 20 or 40 names ruled with space for voting, and with declaration as to voting ; *Notice of Parochial Meeting* ; *Electoral Roll Sheets* ruled and headed for placing at church doors ; *Electoral Roll Books* ruled and headed in the same manner, and also in the form of Index volumes.

Confirmation, by the Archbishop of Sydney, in the English Church Manual Series, has had to be reprinted, and is now published with a cover at 2d. net.

Confirmation.

The pamphlet is one which is particularly useful for distribution before Confirmation, as it answers many questions of difficulty and gives in a clear manner teaching as to what Confirmation is. Chapters are devoted to the best method of Preparation, Baptism, Christian Self-control, the Origin of Creeds, Obedience, Prayer, Holy Communion, Confirmation Day, and Life after Confirmation.

Some difficulty has been experienced since the publication of the Arch-

deacon of Sydney's book, *The Church and the Plain Man*, in obtaining copies of the book, but we are glad to say that they are now on sale in England, price 6s. net. The book consists of lectures delivered at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, in October, 1917. No subject is more alive than the apparent impotence of organised Christianity to touch the daily life of the people at large. There is a vast disparity between active and passive Church membership. Yet there is little organised attack upon Christianity, and there are many signs of a widespread Christianised sentiment that stands apart from organised religion. In these lectures the alleged causes of this indifference are examined in the light of a historical survey of modern civilisation, drawing out the dominance of the economic interest with its cult of comfort reacting upon the Church. An attempt is then made to estimate the actual resources of the Church with a view to offering certain practical suggestions. Points of contact between the Church and the people are indicated, and the main conclusion is that they offer special opportunities for extending the Kingdom of God. While there is room for repentance there is also ground of hope in facing the problems of reconstruction.

Miss E. M. Knox, Principal of Havergal College, Toronto, has compiled a little book of prayers for girls entitled *A Girl's Week of Prayer*, an edition of which has been published in Canada. The Prayers, with thoughts and phrases interwoven from varying sources, have been written in view of the difficulties to-day, and with a special longing after reality. As Miss Knox says in her introduction, "We are realising better than ever that if we would pray effectively we must think effectively, and that Prayer is *not* a magic charm, *not* a mere grasping after the good things of life, *not* a shirking of the ill, but something far grander, far nobler." Two Prayers are given for every morning and evening of the week, with some special Prayers at the end for special occasions. The book is published at 4d. net.

A book entitled *Daily Prayers for Boys* (4d. net) has also been issued in the form of a little Manual of less than thirty pages. It contains short and simple prayers for every night and morning in one week, and for special occasions. The language is simple and just that in which a healthy minded English lad would express himself in prayer. It is the work of a clergyman in the Church of England, and his introduction is, we think, admirable. We are not sure whether many boys would adopt such a careful system of self-examination as the author recommends, but the suggestion is good. The little book is particularly suitable as a gift to senior choir boys, members of the Church Lads' Brigade, and indeed to all boys of all classes between the ages of 10 and 16 years.

Attention may again be drawn at this season to the late Bishop of Newcastle's (Dr. Straton) book, *Thoughts for Communicants*, 9d. net. This is a guide and companion to the Holy Table especially for the use and help of those recently confirmed. The book contains six chapters: The first on the relationship between the Passover and the Lord's Supper; the second, on the union between Christ and Christians; the third, on the spirit of the Communicant; the fourth, on the strengthening and refreshing of the soul; the fifth, on St. Paul's warning; the sixth gives the Communion Service in full, with appropriate references.