

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

PUSEY HOUSE TEACHING.

THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE. By Darwell Stone, D.D. Handbooks of Catholic Faith and Practice. London: *Robert Scott*. 3s. 6d. net.

In this course of Lenten Sermons, Dr. Darwell Stone, the well-known Head of Pusey House, gives us his conception of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We need scarcely say that we consider his view not in keeping with the representation of the New Testament. He considers that the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the Christian Church and that in it the Church presents to the Father the life of the Lord as a sacrificial offering.

The book is full of unjustifiable assumptions. Thus, despite all assertions of modern scholars to the contrary, Dr. Darwell Stone still imputes a sacrificial sense to "Do this" and "In remembrance of Me" in the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Interesting reference is made to what will happen when the Sacrament is reserved. No mere reservation for the purpose of communicating the sick will suffice. We are told that worshippers will expect more: "They will look for a seemly and dignified method of reservation. They will look for a fitting place. They will claim that when they are in the presence of the Sacrament they may worship and praise and pray in their realization that He who is hidden there is their Lord and God." As for the methods of reservation and the Services of devotion round the reserved sacrament, we are told that, while these "must be under the control of the bishop of the diocese," yet the worshippers will claim to "worship our Lord where the sacrament is reserved, with that fullness of adoration which they feel and express towards Him in the Mass" (p. 53).

With respect to the doctrine of Sacrifice, we notice that Dr. Darwell Stone gives no place to the teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews. With that Epistle before us, as Hooker and Lightfoot said, there can be no place for sacrifice in the Christian Ministry.

In its teaching of the continual presence of Christ with the believer there is a firmer ground of assurance and joy than in the unjustified assumptions which have gathered round the sacramental bread and wine.

THEOLOGY AS AN EMPIRICAL SCIENCE.

THEOLOGY AS AN EMPIRICAL SCIENCE. By D. C. Macintosh, Ph.D., Dwight Professor of Theology in Yale University. London: *George Allen and Unwin*. 12s. 6d. net.

The purpose of this volume, issued by the Dwight Professor of Theology at Yale, is to relate theological theory with that acquaintance with the divine which is to be found in religious experience at its best. Through religious experience genuine knowledge of a divine Reality can be gained, and this knowledge can be formulated and further developed by inductive reasoning. The author, therefore, wishes to give us the Theology of Experimental Religion. He quotes the saying of William James: "Let empiricism once become associated with religion, as hitherto, through some strange misunderstanding, it has been associated with irreligion, and I believe that a new era of religion as well as of philosophy will be ready to begin." He takes up the challenge of Huxley: "If any one is able to make good the assertion that his theology rests upon valid evidence and sound reasoning,

then it appears to me that such theology must take its place as a part of science."

While many good things appear in the work, there is much with which we cannot agree. In the chapter which deals with conclusions in the field of the scientific history of religion, the author feels himself warranted in "assuming the improbability of the virgin-birth of Jesus or of any other religious leader." To him "it seems not unreasonable to suppose that the virgin-birth story is a legend, comparable with the similar, although more crudely expressed birth-legends that grew up about certain Greek and Roman heroes and such religious personalities as Gautama (the Buddha), Krishna, and Shankara." Similarly, in dealing with the miracles recorded in the Gospels, he finds it possible to "deal with them in a fairly plausible way" apart from miracle. "Legendary accretion" may account for the restoring of the ear of Malchus, the feeding of the 5,000, the stilling of the tempest, etc. Not very much value is attached to the Fourth Gospel as a source of historical information.

Similarly defective is his attitude to Jesus. Did Jesus have a pre-existent life? We are told: "The answer to this seems to be that, while God who was manifested as imminent within the historic Jesus, must, of course, be thought of as having existed prior to the beginning of Jesus' earthly life, we have no positive basis for asserting the same of the personal spirit whom we know as Jesus."

The work covers very much ground, but is not at all lengthy. We get careful discussions of Human Free Agency, Immortality, Sin, Existence of God, Revelation, Person of Christ, Work of Christ, Salvation, the Moral Attributes of God, the Metaphysical Attributes of God, the Problem of Evil. An appendix gives a sketch of the Philosophy of Religion, showing the relation of Theology as an Empirical Science to Philosophy.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: Being an Attempt to show that the Existence of Sin and Pain in the world is not inconsistent with the Goodness and Power of God. By the Rev. Peter Green, M.A., Canon of Manchester. London: *Longmans, Green & Co.* 6s. net.

Not so long ago we were reminded in "Army and Religion" that the one great problem of to-day was the Problem of Evil and that the faith which dealt most adequately with that question would be the one which would last longest. For this reason we extend a hearty welcome to Canon Peter Green's new work upon the subject.

The object of his work is to enable a man still to retain his faith in a living and merciful God, Almighty and Good, while at the same time recognising all the evil and sin and suffering that is in the world. The argument proceeds upon the usual lines. God's omnipotence is not absolutely unlimited, and He could not create a being with free-will and yet force him to choose good. With the possibility of choice there came the possibility of man's fallen condition and an imperfect world. In some passages Canon Green boldly challenges man to think of a better moral world.

One part of Canon Green's work will astonish his readers considerably. In his view of the Fall, he resorts to a theory of a Fall, not as something which took place in this world of ours, but as a pre-mundane event. He says that he arrived at this view quite independently. He did not rely upon Origen of early date, nor upon Müller of more recent times. He is convinced of the need of a theory of a pre-mundane fall as being absolutely

necessary to any adequate view of moral and physical evil ; and he proceeds to shape a theory accordingly.

The Canon is more at home when dealing with modern Necessitarian views. He notes the great impetus given to necessitarian principles by the attention paid to physical science, but aptly criticises the modern application made :

“ Having observed the way in which inanimate objects acted, the man of science has decided that spiritual beings must necessarily act in the same way. But in so deciding the man of science merely reversed the fallacy of the savage, who, finding that he himself was influenced by love, and hate, and fear, and desire, gave to the rocks and streams and trees a character like his own. . . . The man of science assures us that a free spiritual being *must* behave as a material object would do, and we are overwhelmed in discussions on free-will and necessity with illustrations drawn from guns and loots and falling weights . . . neither suggestion is based on a truly scientific method.”

We have said sufficient to give an indication of the nature of Canon Green's new work. The book is extremely suggestive, and is in close touch with life. The problem is stated fairly and accurately ; and a carefully reasoned treatment is given to it. We certainly advise all students of religious questions to read this work.

-THREE BOOKS ON PRAYER.

HELPING BY PRAYER. By Constance Lady Coote. London : *Marshall Bros*, 2s. 6d. net.

This little volume contains thirty-three beautiful prayers—twelve for the morning, six for the evening, two for Sunday, and the rest for special occasions and for special topics. The book is written in response to the request of many who have used the author's *Abide with us*.

THE SOUL'S APPEAL TO GOD. By the Rev. A. D. Belden, B.D., with a foreword by the Rev. J. Stuart Holden, D.D. London : *Challenge, Ltd.* 9d.

The author devotes one chapter each to “ The Definition of Prayer ” ; “ The Practice of Prayer ” ; “ The Effects of Prayer—Subjective ” ; “ Prayer as Petition ” ; “ The Effects of Prayer—Objective.” The book will repay the most thoughtful reading—its forty-four pages are packed with good things.

THE REALM OF PRAYER. By the Rev. R. A. Coats, M.A., B.D. London : *Macmillan, Ltd.* 7s. 6d. net.

This is a valuable treatise on prayer, full of definite teaching upon a subject that must ever be of the greatest interest to Christian people. At the head of each of the seventeen helpful chapters, the author has collected appropriate quotations from writers ancient and modern, which, together with the concluding appendix of quotations, form a most valuable collection. Each chapter is complete in itself, but there is a certain unity of thought throughout the volume. The writer has the rare power of making himself simple, while being scholarly and profound. Where all is of so high an order, it is hard to select for special commendation ; but perhaps those chapters are of more present-day importance which deal with “ The Psychology of Prayer,” “ Prayer and the Natural Order,” “ Prayer and Healing.” Perhaps in a later addition the writer may add a chapter emphasizing the place and power of silent, guided, prayer.

CANON BURROUGHS' LATEST BOOK.

THE WAY OF PEACE—a study of the Earliest Programme of Christian Life.

By the Rev. E. A. Burroughs, M.A., Canon of Peterborough and Chaplain to H.M. the King. London: *Longmans, Green & Co.* 3s. 6d. net.

Although this little volume was written at the request of the Bishop of London for Lenten reading in his Diocese—and the Bishop in a commendatory introduction expresses his gratitude to Canon Burroughs—its message is not confined to any one season. The book points for a “moral equivalent” for war to the service of the great Leader who is calling to-day, not for “fine-weather Christians,” or merely “orthodox Churchmen,” but for “adventurers for God.” Canon Burroughs' latest volume is well up to the standard of his previous work—it is scholarly, trenchant, original, and brave. It is not in any sense a “popular” treatise. It calls for thought—concentrated and sustained; but it rewards the reader, who is also a thinker.

After an Introductory Chapter entitled “The Present Distress,” the writer presents “The Way of Disappointment,” which is followed by “The Way of Service.” Then come, “The Passport to Service,” “The Provision for Service,” “The Two Sides of Service,” “The Conditions of Service,” the background being formed by “The Benedictus.” The closing chapter—“The Peace Offensive”—is a summons to a forward movement, for the spread of what a modern labour leader has called “The greatest agitative influence of all time,”—Christianity. The Epilogue (“The Fight and the Light”) forms a challenge to personal service in the great venture of faith issuing in obedience. This volume has a lofty message for the present day.

THE TOWN PARSON.

THE TOWN PARSON—HIS LIFE AND WORK, being the substance of the Pastoral Theology Lectures delivered before the University of Cambridge and at King's College, London, in the year 1914; now written out and enlarged by the Rev. Peter Green, M.A., Canon of Manchester and Chaplain to H.M. the King. London: *Longmans, Green & Co.* 6s. net.

Canon Green writes as a Town Parson to Town Parsons, and writes wisely, out of a rich and varied experience. He has an ideal, but he is no mere idealist. There is much sound common sense, and sanctified “worldly wisdom” within the covers of this book—and clergy, young and old, will do well to “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” its varied and comprehensive contents. There is a certain element that savours of a type of churchmanship commonly called “high”—but it does not bulk large in this book; and the deep tone of spiritual earnestness that pervades it will make it helpful reading to “pastors and teachers” of all schools of thought.

GALILEAN DAYS. By the Rev. F. W. Drake, Rector of Kirby Misperton. London: *Longmans, Green & Co.* 4s. 6d. net.

A devotional study of some of the chief events of our Lord's ministry in Galilee, in twelve chapters. The author holds that no mere humanitarian view of Jesus can meet the demands of the gospel story, or satisfy the deepest instincts of the human heart. Jesus must be the rule of life and the Ruler of all thought and action in days like the present if a soul would build truly and well. The author's views on the Holy Communion will not commend themselves to all: but the book reveals the Master—and that stands for much.