

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

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MENTION was made in these notes in the May number of this magazine of the pending re-issue of Dr. Griffith Thomas' valuable manual of instruction for members of the Church of England entitled, *The Catholic Faith*, which is now published in paper covers at 1s. 6d. net, cloth limp at 2s. net, cloth boards 2s. 6d. net, and in cloth gilt, red edges, 3s. 6d. net. This manual has been in parts considerably revised and added to, and has an additional chapter on what is known as "The Principal Service" and the controversies which have raged round the Holy Communion Service. The book, which is divided into three parts—The Catholic Faith and Individual Life; The Catholic Faith and Church Life; and The Catholic Faith and Current Questions—will be found of very great use to all Churchpeople wishing to know what it means to be a Christian in association with the Church of England; what is involved in belonging to that body of Christians which is called by the title; and by what arguments they may be able to justify their position whenever required to do so. This manual represents an endeavour to answer two questions:—(1) What is the Church of England? (2) What does the Church of England teach? The answers to these questions are found, first, in the Prayer Book and Articles considered in their plain and obvious meaning. The fundamental principles of the Church of England are there indicated, and it is shown how these principles are expressed in the formularies of doctrine and worship, and what they imply and involve in the lives of those who are bound by them. It is also shown that the Prayer Book and Articles need consideration in the light of their origin and compilation, and in view of the circumstances which gave birth to their present form. The Church of England formularies are thus seen to be the direct outcome of great movements of thought and life in the English nation.

Another book by Dr. Griffith Thomas which has been out of print for some considerable time is now in the Press, and we hope will be published in the early part of October, price 3s. 6d. net. *A Sacrament of Our Redemption* is an inquiry into the meaning of the Lord's Supper in the New Testament and in the Church of England. It is scholarly, accurate, easy in style, and perfectly convincing as to the real teaching of the New Testament and the close adherence of the Prayer Book to that teaching. Upon the mind of the average reader the effect of a careful perusal of this volume will be the assurance that the doctrine of the Church of England upon the Holy Communion is so clear, so Scriptural, and so supported by scholarship, that it is impossible for Anglican apologists of Roman or Lutheran doctrine honestly to claim her support for one or the other. The author begins his book with an inquiry into the New Testament records, and follows this by a critical analysis, condensed and valuable, of the words of institution, and it is interesting to notice how the author supports his position by quotations from scholars whom he could not claim as being on the same side as himself within the Church. Passing from the words of Scripture, Dr. Griffith Thomas gives a skilful collation of the Liturgy and Articles which enables us to see at once how complete is the adherence of our Church to the position she lays down in her Sixth Article, and we are forced to acknowledge that there is nothing in the Prayer Book that is not

found in the New Testament, and nothing in the New Testament that is not found in the Prayer Book on this subject ; its statements, standpoint and spiritual standard are identical. Not the least valuable part of this volume are the last three chapters. Having elucidated the teaching of the New Testament, Dr. Griffith Thomas examines in the light thus gained some of the teaching current and common among us upon the Lord's Supper. Its divergence from the standard of Scripture and Prayer Book is at once apparent. In its influence upon the reader this is perhaps the strongest part of the book ; his mind has been prepared to weigh accurately the real significance of that teaching and its disloyalty to " the Sacrament of the Death of Christ."

Some little time ago Sir Edward Clarke issued an edition of St. Paul's Epistles. Its object was to give " the Authorized Version amended by the adoption of such of the alterations made in the Revised Version as are necessary for correcting material mistranslations, or making clear the meaning of the inspired writer." He then promised that if his design met with approval he would bring out an edition of the New Testament on similar lines. From his experience in reading the lessons for many years past at the church of St. Peter's, Staines, he has found it useful to compare the Authorized and the Revised Versions, and, without wholly adopting the latter, to make such changes as are contained in it for the purposes indicated above. The Epistles met with such approval that shortly after Sir Edward published the whole of the New Testament in the same form. In the preface he refers to the desire expressed two years ago by some of the foremost English representatives of theology, scholarship and literature for an amended edition of the Authorized Version of the New Testament, and without claiming to have made the niceties of scholarship his own, he brings to the work years of special study of the English language as a medium of expression. English Churchpeople are wedded to the diction of the Authorized Version and have never taken kindly to the drastic alterations of the Revised Version. Sir Edward Clarke's edition provides the type of book that has long been desired. It retains for the most part the familiar phraseology of the Authorized Version, while in passages where the rendering of the Revised Version makes the meaning clearer or has corrected a mistranslation he has used its words. The edition is specially helpful in following the lessons in church, and we are sure that its usefulness will render it generally acceptable. These two books have had a large sale, and the remainder of the first editions are now being issued cheaply in order to secure for them a wide circulation. The Epistles are issued in paper covers at 1s. net, and the New Testament in cloth covers, stiff boards, at 2s. 6d. net, and in cloth limp at 2s. net.

Sir Edward Clarke has also published *The Book of Psalms—The Prayer Book Version Corrected*, a delightful volume, which certainly gives the keenest pleasure to its readers and is an aid to the devotions of those who use " the only book of private devotion at our command which we are authorized to associate with Divine Inspiration." This book is also issued in a cheaper binding in paper covers at 1s., and in stiff boards at 1s. 6d.