

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

A NEW book, entitled *The Reformers and the Reformation*, by the Rev. F. B. Llewellyn, B.D., has just been published, price 5s. net. In its 210 pages will be found a readable account of the Reformation period, and the life-story of five Reformers—Luther, Calvin, Tyndale, Cranmer and Jewel. The book is not written as a text-book, but for Churchpeople generally who wish to know what we owe to the Reformation and have not time to read the larger volumes. It is particularly valuable to place in the hands of young people, Sunday School teachers, and members of Church Councils. It will not be *dry* reading and will interest.

From the time of its commencement to the present day the Reformation has been the battleground of contending parties and partisans. The Romanist has endeavoured to defend, to deny, or to minimize the doctrinal errors, the popular superstitions and the moral corruptions which rendered it inevitable. The Ritualist asserts that it is to be repented of "in sackcloth and ashes." The answer to those who disparage the Reformation is to be found in the above book, and in the Rev. C. Sydney Carter's *English Church and the Reformation* (1s. net), which deals with the English Reformation in particular, and which may be mentioned again in these notes with advantage. The facts are set out with luminous clearness. Short, clear, comprehensive, full enough for all practical purposes, it is just the kind of book which is helpful.

Knowledge of the Prayer Book is very necessary to all who are engaged in Church work, and especially to members of Church Councils, Ruridecanal and Diocesan Conferences, and to members of the National Assembly who will have to consider and vote upon many changes. Dr. Flecker has provided students with a very clear and serviceable handbook to the Morning and Evening Prayer Book and Litany, entitled *The Student's Prayer Book*, now obtainable for 1s. 6d. net. The text is given and short, crisp, informing notes added. *The Protestantism of the Prayer Book*, by Canon Dyson Hague (1s. net), is another valuable work. It is intended to demonstrate the essential Protestantism of the Prayer Book, and to give a brief but exhaustive account of the true principles on which the English Book of Common Prayer was finally compiled when the Reformation of our English Church was completed, and the Second Book of Edward VI was substituted for the First Book. It shows that those principles were carefully retained in the Prayer Book of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and were finally preserved unaltered in the revision of 1662.

We referred a short time ago in these notes to the issue of a new edition of *The Holy Communion: Its Purpose and Privilege*, by Canon Barnes-Lawrence, at 1s. 3d., 1s. 9d. and 2s. net. This book will be found very valuable to give to young people on the occasion of their Confirmation. It cannot be too highly recommended. It deals, by the method of positive teaching rather than controversial treatment, with the fact that the Holy Communion is central to those foundation truths which underlie the whole Christian life. Its thought-

fulness, its spirit of sober and quiet devotion, its clear and definite teaching, all combine to render it a truly beautiful book. We know of no volume on the subject better fitted to be given to the young of the more thoughtful and educated classes. It is, moreover, a valuable addition to the devotional library of elder Churchmen and women.

My First Communion, by the Rev. A. R. Runnels Moss, with a preface by the Bishop of Manchester (1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d. net), is a welcome little devotional manual. It can be described as being a simple and clear explanation of the nature and meaning of the **My First Communion**. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with a brief comment upon the Communion Service.

A short and simple statement of the meaning of the Thirty-nine Articles has been a long-felt want, particularly by clergymen who wish to give to their Confirmation candidates and Sunday School scholars

The Thirty-nine Articles, a handbook containing a brief and accurate explanation of the contents of the Articles. *The Thirty-nine Articles*, by the Rev. B. C. Jackson (3d. net), is clear and concise, and the teaching which it contains is excellent in every way. He gives an historical introduction covering the main facts of the Articles, and in five groups he deals with their chief points. Each of them contains an explanation of things essential, and a longer reference to matters of special difficulty. For Church-people generally, who desire to make themselves better acquainted with the Articles, and yet have not time in this busy age for the study of large commentaries intended for the use of divinity students, nothing could be more suitable.

The Rev. Herbert Rowsell says his object in his pamphlet, *Rome and Babylon*, is to show the identity between Romanism and the ancient idolatry of Babylon. He regards Romanism as having no right to the title of Christianity, as it is practically a pre-Christian idolatry, with just sufficient Christianity to give it currency. He acknowledges that this is a hard saying, but his pamphlet is intended to show that it is true. He goes through the series of Babylonian beliefs and practices, and shows their counterpart in the Roman Church. It has always been difficult to explain such things as the black "bambino." Mr. Rowsell attributes it to Babylonian origin. The mysteries of Babylonian religion found their way to Rome, and some of them, through the paganism of the Roman Empire, found a place in the Christian Church. Mr. Rowsell points out that many of the heathen symbols have been adopted in the Roman system, the mitre, the rosary, holy water and holy fire being among the number. Some of the festivals of the Church can also be traced to the same source. Mr. Rowsell's book gives rise to much reflection on the tendency of human nature to fall back from the height of spiritual insight upon material elements that tend to debase and lower the standard of spiritual truth.

A very few copies remain available of *Steps Towards Reunion*, by Bishops Willis and Peel (price 9d. net). This is undoubtedly one of the ablest contributions to the whole question of Church policy that has been issued, and must of necessity be a historical document. In days to come it will take its place with other classical statements of the Church of England position. It is written with a sense of the responsibility of the importance of the occasion, it is clear and statesmanlike, and states its principles with logical force and accuracy.