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CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

Authority in the Church: Being an examination into the position and jurisdiction of Bishops in the Anglican Communion, by the Rev. T. C. Hammond,

Authority. M.A., (4s. 6d. net) will be found a most interesting and enlightening volume. The questions with which the author deals will become matters of controversy here in England—perhaps sooner than we think—and for this reason as well as for its intrinsic value the book deserves careful study. The writer has endeavoured to confine the inquiry to the single issue regarding the authority of an individual Bishop, and the various limitations upon it which are revealed in the course of history. He states that he has found it difficult to separate this question from related topics; but the effort has been made, and may serve to explain the reticence displayed on many important topics which have been touched upon incidentally. He has given considerable attention to the Reformation period, in order to exhibit with clearness the vital changes introduced into Church polity at that stirring epoch, and his reference to writings which are easily accessible makes the book particularly valuable. It will do much to clear the minds of Churchmen on the important subject with which it deals, and its bearing on the whole future of the National Church.

The Rev. T. W. Gilbert, B.D., published a short time ago a series of addresses under the name of *The Prodigal Son* (1s. net) which he preached to the congregation of St. Clement's Church, Oxford, and also to the 8th Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. In these addresses the author tells again the familiar story of the Prodigal Son, but with such tender sympathy and understanding, such wise counsel and admonition, that we hear again the Master's voice speaking to us and showing us the way home to the Father. For private meditation, and also in the preparation of addresses, the book will be found most helpful.

Robert Law, D.D., of Knox College, Toronto, has written several books of great interest and value, and his latest, *The Hope of our Calling*, is a pre-eminently sane and convincing series of discourses on the life of the Christian hereafter. The author states that this volume, called forth by the tremendous revival of interest in immortality occasioned by the war, is one of the most satisfying treatments of the subject which has been given to the Christian world. The book is published in the United States of America, and can be obtained from the Church Book Room at the price of 6s. net. The author treats his subject under the following headings: *The Hope of our Calling—The Hereafter in the Old Testament—Death, Blessing or Curse?—The Resurrection of Christ—The Spiritual Body—Judgment to come—The Heavenly World—The Heavenly Life—The Heavenly Society—Is Evil Eternal?—Eternal Life.*

The Report of the Conference held at Fulham Palace, 1901-2, on Confession and Absolution is now practically out of print. The small remainder has been purchased by the Church Book Room

Confession. and is offered at 1s. net. The Report, edited by the Dean of Canterbury, who was Chairman of the Conference, is a particularly valuable

one in view of the personnel of the Conference and the conclusions arrived at. In calling the Conference the Bishop of London asked the members to consider (1) The meaning of our Lord's words (in St. John xx. 22-23, St. Matt. xviii. 18) and their use in the Ordinal, as affecting the conception of the priesthood; (2) The Practice of the Church—(a) in primitive times; (b) in the Middle Ages; (3) The meaning of the Anglican Formularies, and the limits of doctrine and practice which they allow; and (4) Practical consideration—(a) The treatment of penitents; (b) the special training of the minister. It is important to note that the two special points of agreement which were arrived at at the Conference were in regard to our Lord's words in St. John's Gospel, "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." It is stated these are not to be regarded as addressed only to the Apostles or to the clergy, but as a commission to the whole Church, and as conveying a summary of the message with which it is charged. It is, therefore, for the Church as a whole to discharge the commission, which she does by the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and by godly discipline. The members of the Conference also agreed that the discipline of private Confession and Absolution cannot be shown to have existed for some centuries after the foundation of the Church.

There is a constant need for books for presentation to Confirmees, and the following can be recommended for various classes: *My First Communion*, by the Rev. A. R. Runnels-Moss (1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d. net), is particularly suited to candidates from higher elementary or secondary schools. Bishop Knox contributes a preface, in which he describes the book as helpful to true devotion, and containing instruction true to the principles of the Communion Office in our Church without being controversial in tone. This book contains the Communion Service itself as an appendix. Another book of a different type is *The Holy Communion: Its Institution, Purpose and Privilege*, by the Rev. Canon Barnes-Lawrence (paper cover, 1s. 3d. net; cloth limp, 1s. 9d. net; cloth gilt, 2s. net). Its aim is to give positive teaching rather than controversial, but Canon Barnes-Lawrence has added a very valuable series of notes on the question of doctrine which he prints at the end. This book is specially helpful to young Christians of the more thoughtful and educated classes. The Bishop of Sodor and Man's manual, *Holy Communion: Historical, Doctrinal and Devotional* (1s. 6d. net), is a book of yet another kind. The Bishop opens with a series of introductory chapters dealing with the preparatory and yet all-important aspects of his subject, and gives an historic, devotional and practical explanation of the service itself. The book is written for the average intelligent and earnest communicant, who desires to know something of the history, more of the doctrine, and most of the true spirit of the Communion Service. Other books which may be mentioned are *The Holy Communion*, by "Fidelis" (9d. and 1s. 6d. net), a simple devotional manual which can be thoroughly recommended when a larger manual is not desired; *The King's Table of Blessing; or, Thoughts for Communicants*, by the Rev. A. Leedes-Hunt (1s. and 1s. 6d. net), an excellent little volume, suggestive, not exhaustive, and decidedly successful in its aim of creating an intelligent interest in the Prayer Book, and in supplying food for thought and aids to devotion; *Thoughts for Communicants*, by Bishop Stratton (9d. net), in which the Service of Holy Communion is given with notes for use at the service; *Holy Communion*, by the Rev. H. M. Lang, in the English Church Manuals Series, at 6d. net and 1s. net; and *After Confirmation, What and How?* by Archdeacon Joynt (2s. net), ought also to be mentioned, and are probably well known.