

## CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

**Miracles in St. John's Gospel.**—The Rev. T. W. Gilbert, B.D., Rector of Bradfield, has just published a specially useful little book entitled *The Miracles in St. John's Gospel: Their Teaching on Eternal Life* (2s. 6d. net). The book shows how the Gospel of St. John is really built up round the seven miracles selected by St. John, and that there is a definite sequence in the selection; also that the teaching connected with each of the miracles is so arranged as to bring out the truth of which the particular miracle is a "sign." Miracle and teaching go hand in hand, so to speak, to explain how Eternal Life is possible through Christ, and the development is explained from the first miracle at Cana, with its application in our Lord's words to Nicodemus, until the complete confession in Christ by Thomas in the Upper Room. The Bishop of Oxford contributes an introduction.

**The Holy Communion.**—The Rev. T. W. Gilbert has also just written a little manual, *The Holy Communion: What it is*, which is published by the Book Room, price 1d. or 7s. per 100. The pamphlet is meant for distribution to Confirmands, and is a useful companion to *Preparation for the Holy Communion* and *At the Holy Communion*, by the Rev. H. M. Lang in the English Church Manuals Series, which are now unfortunately only obtainable bound together at 6d. paper cover, and 1s. cloth.

**Spiritual Revival.**—The London Meeting of Lay Churchmen has just held its ninth meeting and a record of its proceedings has been published (1s. post free). The subject selected was "Spiritual Revival—Its Nature and Expression," and the papers which were read and which are given in full in this report are of exceptional value and interest. The Chairman, Professor Beresford Pite, gives a general introduction. "The Source of Revival" is dealt with by Mr. R. R. Webster, a nephew of the late Preb. F. S. Webster; "The Way of Revival," by Mr. W. Guy Johnson and Mr. H. Morgan Veitch; "The Mental Processes of Revival," by Mr. A. G. Pite, M.C.; "The Hindrances to Revival," by Dr. Tom Jays, and "The Hope of Revival," by Mr. H. C. Hogan, the Editor of *The Record*, Mr. H. C. Perrott and Mr. C. E. Caesar.

**Non-Communicating Attendance.**—Many inquiries have reached us during the last few weeks for some pamphlet or book on the question of non-communicating attendance at Holy Communion. It may be of interest to those who read this column to be reminded that the National Church League published some years ago, at the suggestion of the late Bishop of Bath and Wells, a valuable essay entitled *The Communion of the Laity*, by the Rev. W. E. Scudamore. It can be obtained in paper covers at 6d. net, and in cloth at 1s. The essay, which is chiefly historical, is on the rule and practice of the Church with respect to the reception of the sacred elements. The present edition was reprinted under the personal supervision of the Dean of Canterbury, who contributes a Preface.

Another book which contains useful information on this subject is *Primitive Church Teaching* by the late Dean Goulburn (1s. net). This work is an

appendix to the author's commentary on *The Office of the Holy Communion*. Dean Goulburn enjoyed during his life-time the reputation of a helpful devotional writer.

A High Churchman, he had a strong realization of the Church as Reformed and Protestant, and felt it his duty to write and speak plainly on the introduction of practices and doctrines that are mediæval and were deliberately rejected by our Reformers. *Primitive Church Teaching on the Holy Communion* was written by him, because, as stated in his Preface, "Since the original publication of the work (*The English Office of the Holy Communion*) two or three practices, which seem to me wrong in principle, and to have a tendency to undermine the true doctrine of the Holy Eucharist, have shot up with an amazing rapidity, and are gaining every day a greater foothold among the members of our Communion," and he felt that readers of his book on the Holy Communion had a right to expect from him some guidance on the practices to which he refers—Fasting Communion, Non-communicating Attendance, and previous private Confession.

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**Church and Faith.**—*The Lord's Supper* by Dr. Drury, late Bishop of Ripon, *The Confessional* by Canon F. Meyrick, and *The Reformation Settlement* by J. T. Tomlinson, are three reprints from *Church and Faith*, a valuable collection of Essays on the teaching of the Church of England collected and published some years ago under the editorship of Dr. Percival, Bishop of Hereford. These three pamphlets are now issued at one penny and three-pence each. *The Lord's Supper* is written in a simple style, and is well suited for distribution among the more intelligent lay workers, Sunday School teachers, etc. The first portion consists of a description of the earlier development of the Eucharistic service, and Dr. Drury then considers the Holy Communion in its various aspects, i.e. as a service of remembrance, as a covenant sign, as a sacramental feast, as a Eucharist, as a service of fellowship.

Canon Meyrick's pamphlet is a severe condemnation of the practice of Confession on the grounds alike of Scripture, of primitive custom, of history, and of its practical consequences. Those who read it with unprejudiced minds will probably be convinced that few greater injuries can be done to the English Church and the English people than the re-introduction for general adoption of a practice so inconsistent with ancient example and so adverse to the cultivation of the best manly and womanly character. The value of the reprint is enhanced by a preface written by the Dean of Canterbury.

*The Reformation Settlement* is one of Mr. J. T. Tomlinson's most valuable productions. He has collected some very useful and interesting historical information. He deals with (1) the struggle of the laity (as represented by the Crown) to throw off the yoke of a "spiritual," i.e. clerical judicature, and (2) the casting out of the Mass and the Confessional in the sixteenth century. He thinks that to get rid of these last and to vindicate for the laity a right to speak in the name and on behalf of "the Church" with a recognition of the paramount authority of Holy Scripture over the Church, constituted the real essence of what is known in English history as "The Reformation."

The whole book has been out of print for some years, but a few second-hand copies are still obtainable at the Church Book Room at 2s. each post free.