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CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES

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Theological Books.—A general list of theological books has not been issued by the Church Book Room for some time owing to the difficulties of ascertaining what books were actually obtainable and their prices. A list has now been prepared and will be sent on application. Books are classified under the general headings of the subjects with which they deal, and care has been taken only to name those which are obtainable, cheap and worth reading.

Prayer Book Revision.—A four-page leaflet has been prepared by the National Church League, containing a summary of the proposed changes in the Prayer Book, which is issued at 3s. per 100 post free, and is intended to give Churchmen a brief statement of the contents of the Report. A lecture by Bishop Knox on the Report on Prayer Book Revision has also been published at 3d. It contains a review of the whole situation and deals especially with the position of the laity and their duty. Mr. W. Prescott Upton has written another pamphlet on this subject, price 3d. net. It deals especially with the changes in the Holy Communion Service, and in the Baptismal and Confirmation Services. It will be found of service in the consideration of the Report. Parochial Church Councillors and others would do well to purchase and to consider the following pamphlets in connexion with this matter as they will give them information and instruction in regard to our present Prayer Book which will be of service to them in any consideration of the Report:—*The Story of the Prayer Book*, by Bishop Moule; *Principles of the Book of Common Prayer*, by Bishop Drury; *The Place of the Elements*; *The Case against Reservation*, by G. A. King; and *The Power of the Presence and its Relation to the Holy Communion*, by Bishop Moule—all at 1d. each.

A New Manual for Communicants.—The Rev. T. W. Gilbert has written a little manual for Communicants entitled *Helps to the Christian Life* (cloth 1s. 3d.; cloth gilt, 1s. 6d.). This manual, as the title indicates, is rather more than a Manual for use at the service of Holy Communion, as it has a section on prayer, with prayers for special occasions, and one on Bible study with suggested readings, in addition to instruction and devotions before, at the time of, and after Communion. To the young and to the adult Communicant this will be a real help. As the author states in his Preface: "God has given to us PRAYER, by which we can have communion and fellowship with Him, a fellowship which raises us above the things of everyday life and enables us to view the things of this world from God's standpoint. He has given to us the BIBLE, in which we can hear God speaking to us, educating our minds, strengthening our souls, and imparting to us the knowledge which results in an active Christian life. And He has given to us the HOLY COMMUNION, to be a visible reminder of Christ's Death on the Cross for us, to be a pledge and assurance that that Death was indeed wrought for us and for our salvation, and to be a means of grace until He comes again to meet us in the fullness of His glory."

Ritualism.—In view of the large number of Anglo-Roman pamphlets which are being circulated through the country and the statements which appear in certain of the handbooks issued in connexion with the "Anglo-

Catholic " Congresses, we strongly recommend the perusal and circulation of Canon Meyrick's valuable books *Scriptural and Catholic Truth and Worship*, or the Faith and Worship of the Primitive, the Mediæval and the Reformed Anglican Churches (1s. 6d. net), and his *Old Anglicanism and Modern Ritualism* (1s. net). Canon Meyrick shows in the first book what was the faith and worship of the Early Church to the fifth century. He then traces the transition period to the end of the eighth century, the growth of the confessional, the doctrine of purgatory and the Papal power. The creed of Pius IV is taken as summing up the Mediæval faith, and the worship of the Church is shown to be altered in accordance with its changed creed. Then came the Reformation in the Anglican Church, with its return to the earlier faith and worship. In *Old Anglicanism and Modern Ritualism* he gives extracts from the writings of the Caroline Divines on particular subjects which are agitating our Church to-day.

Finally we mention a most useful pamphlet by Canon Meyrick entitled *Ritual and Ritualism* (price 1d.). The author asks 231 leading questions on matters such as The Objective Presence, Elevation, Adoration, Reservation, Vestments, the Ornaments Rubric, Confession, Mariolatry, etc., and answers each in a lucid helpful way.

Historical Novels.—Two most interesting historical novels have just been brought to our notice. *The Hour before the Dawn* (8s. 6d. net) is a story, as the title indicates, of the period of Henry VIII, but the action takes place in Scotland, and the reader is enabled to read the tale in modern English without being perplexed by the Scotch or English of the age. The book is a remarkable one, and the characters stand out with well-defined distinctiveness. The character study of James V of Scotland, and the description of the period are remarkably good, and we were particularly interested in the sketch of Cardinal Beaton and his persecutions of the Reformers. The hero will endear himself to the ordinary reader, and he and the heroine appear in a second book, *The Watch Dog of the Crown* (7s. net), which is a sequel. The author changes the scene of the story to England in the period of the reign of Edward VI. The three chief characters are Lord Seymour, Lady Frances Grey, and Sir Henry Talbot, the Lieutenant of the Tower, where quite a considerable portion of the action of the story takes place. Again we have a story of intrigue, duplicity, equivocation, persecution. Both novels are of absorbing interest, and although there are some points in the latter book to which some may take exception, particularly in the character study of Queen Elizabeth, we consider the history of both good and illuminating.

Parochial Missions.—In view of the various Missions now being arranged, the following leaflets will be found useful for general circulation: *Our Saviour and Redeemer*, by Canon Girdlestone; *The Holy Spirit*, by Rev. Dr. Flecker; *Sin*, by Canon Buchanan; *Judgment to Come*, by the Bishop of Truro; *Repentance*, by Canon Hay Aitken; *Salvation*, by Rev. The O'Shea; *Assurance*, by the Bishop of Chelmsford; *Christian Service*, by Rev. Dr. Mullins; *Consecration*, by Preb. F. S. Webster; *Baptism*, by Rev. D. H. D. Wilkinson; *The Holy Communion*, by Canon Barnes-Lawrence; *Bible Reading*, by W. Guy Johnson; *A Call to Prayer*, by Canon Morrow; *Purity of Life*, by Col. Seton Churchill; *Confession*, by Preb. Eardley-Wilmot, at 5s. per 100; *God*, by Bishop E. A. Knox; *Prayer*, by Albert Mitchell; *The Lord's Day*, by Preb. Fox; and *The Joy of Salvation*, by Canon Odum, at 3s. per 100; *The Road that Led me to Christ*, by Col. Seton Churchill, at 7s. per 100; and *Can you Read?* by Albert Mitchell, at 3s. per 100. A sample packet, together with specimen copies of decision cards, will be sent for 1s. post free.