

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

The Church Congress.—As in previous years there will be a large stall at the Church Congress Exhibition at Merton Fields, Oxford, during Congress Week, when the publications of the League and books recommended by the Committee will be on sale. Clergy and other members are specially invited to visit the stall, to inspect and purchase the literature on view, and to mention it to their friends, particularly drawing attention to the books and pamphlets on Prayer Book Revision and Prayer Book Teaching.

We would also draw attention to the excellent series of calendars, motto cards and framed verses written and issued by the Rev. R. F. P. Pechey, which will also be on sale. These are artistically illustrated and beautifully arranged. They are suitable for placing on a desk or wall. The calendars are published at 1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d., the motto cards at 1s. 6d., framed at 2s., 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. In addition to the New Year's and Christmas verses, Mr. Pechey has also prepared an excellent birthday motto card entitled *A Birthday Wish* which is issued at 1s. 6d.

N.G.L. Publications.—A new list of the publications of the League has now been prepared and will be sent on receipt of a postcard.

Prayer Book Teaching Pamphlets.—Three additions to these pamphlets have just been issued: No. 20, by Bishop E. A. Knox, entitled *Misuse of Prayer Book Revision: to Promote the Counter-Reformation*. Bishop Knox has given us a most valuable pamphlet which should be circulated all over England. The real issues in the present controversy have never been put more clearly. It is clear in thought, strong in argument, and cogent in its appeal. Bishop Knox shows that the proposals before the Church Assembly commit the Church to giving its authority to two mutually exclusive systems: to the Mass of the unreformed Church, and to the Communion Service of the Reformers; and the Bishop notes the position of the intelligent layman who tries to find out for himself and for his children what the Church teaches. "Will he really respect a Church which in regard to the great Sacrament of union utters two voices, gives two wholly discordant explanations, and takes no trouble to come to a determinate decision on one of the greatest problems that has confronted Christendom?" No. 21, by the Rev. Dr. C. Sydney Carter, entitled *The English Church: Catholic, Apostolic, Reformed, Protestant*, embodies the material contained under these headings which appeared in *The Record* newspaper some time ago and which Dr. Carter has re-arranged and re-written by special request. The pamphlet is written with knowledge, and will be exceedingly useful for general circulation, as it illustrates the principles of our Church's teaching. No. 22, by the Rev. T. J. Pulvertaft, is entitled *A Short Sketch of English Church History*, and is a useful and interesting survey of the growth of the Church of England since before the Norman Conquest until the present day. The value of the pamphlet is increased by a useful chronological table which is printed at the end. These pamphlets now number twenty two and the full series will be sent post free on receipt of a P.O. for 2s. 6d. They are issued at 2d. each.

Alternative Communion Offices.—The Rev. Dr. A. C. Downer has published an interesting and valuable little volume entitled *The Alternative Communion Offices*, undertaken at the instance of Bishop Knox, who has taken a considerable interest in the publication and has contributed some of the more important notes. The book supplies a lack which has been widely felt, and Dr. Downer's endeavour to exhibit in parallel columns the various proposals for Alternative Communion Services in contrast to the Communion Service of the Church of England in the Book of Common Prayer will be of considerable help in following the several revision proposals. Dr. Downer has naturally not been able to include the alterations made by the House of Clergy at the recent summer session, but the pamphlet is published with wide margins so as to enable readers to fill in further material for themselves from the published reports and so keep the matter up-to-date. The pamphlet is published at 2s. net.

Dr. Griffith Thomas' Books.—The sudden and lamented death of the Rev. W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D., in the United States, deprives us of a writer whose competency and knowledge were unique. Those who have not copies of two books of his, published by the N.C.L., would do well to obtain them immediately. The first volume, *The Catholic Faith: a Manual of Instruction for Members of the Church of England*, was issued first in 1905, and has been through several reprints. In 1920 a new and revised edition was issued, bringing the total issue of the book to 30,000. The book, as the subtitle indicates, is a manual of instruction, and answers exhaustively and with references to authority, two questions: "What is the Church of England?" and "What does the Church of England teach?" It is arranged in the order of the Book of Common Prayer. Part 1 deals with the relation of the individual Christian to God, according to the Prayer Book, and how that relation is formed and maintained. Part 2 deals with the relation of the individual Churchman to his fellow Churchmen in regard to doctrine, worship, and practice. Part 3 deals with the relation of the individual Churchman to some important questions of the day. *The Catholic Faith* has a useful index, and is issued in four styles: 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 2s., and 1s. 6d. net. *A Sacrament of Our Redemption* is the second book by Dr. Griffith Thomas published by the League. This book was first issued in 1906, but was practically re-written and issued as a second edition in 1921, having in view the discussion in regard to the Communion Service which was taking place in connection with the Revision of the Prayer Book. The book deals with the institution, meaning, and history of the rite of the Lord's Supper, the "Sacrament of our Redemption." Dr. Thomas first of all declares the right method of approach to the study of the rite, and points out that, in the midst of conflicting views, the only way of approach is to get behind controversy to the institution of the sacrament in the New Testament record, and the reader's attention is drawn to the connection of the Lord's Supper with the Jewish Passover feast, with its wealth of symbol and memorial. After carefully examining the gospels and epistles in relation to the institution of the Holy Communion, Dr. Thomas gives an excellent summary of the New Testament teaching. Five chapters follow in which the writer traces the various changes that took place in our Book of Common Prayer, and finds in that book to-day just "the same simplicity of statement, the same spiritual standpoint, the same general view of the institution," as are found in the New Testament. Three closing chapters deal with current unscriptural views of the Lord's Supper, brought in through the Tractarian movement.