

## NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

SO many books have appeared during the last few months that we regret that we are unable to give as much space to some of them as they deserve. We must, however, draw attention briefly to the following volumes.

The Bishop of London's Lent Book this year was written by the Rev. W. H. Elliott, M.A., Vicar of St. Michael, Chester Square. The title is *The Christian in his Blindness* (Longmans, Green & Co., 2s. 6d. net). In popular style, with many striking illustrative incidents, Mr. Elliott makes a heart-searching examination of some of the chief failures of Christian people to-day, and also provides a number of useful lessons on points of Christian teaching especially in regard to the future life.

When it was anticipated by the supporters of the revised Prayer Book in 1928 that the book would be fully authorised, the English Church Union planned a Commentary on the new Prayer Book. The rejection of the book by Parliament upset their plans. They determined, however, to proceed with the compilation of a Commentary, and with the assistance of the S.P.C.K. the volume was recently issued under the title of *Liturgy and Worship: A Companion to the Prayer Books of the Anglican Communion* (S.P.C.K., 15s. net). The Editorship was entrusted to Dr. W. K. Lowther Clarke with the assistance of Dr. Charles Harris. They brought together a band of writers who have produced an interesting and, in some respects, a useful volume. It contains a wide variety of information regarding liturgies, but the bias of the book is strongly on the side of Anglo-Catholicism, and its historical statements and scriptural exegesis need careful scrutiny before adoption, so that Evangelical Churchmen will be chary of accepting its deductions. As a book of reference upon the Anglo-Catholic interpretation of our Prayer Book it will, no doubt, find a place on many library shelves.

Canon Peter Green has added to his books on *God The Father*, and *God The Son*, a third on *The Holy Ghost The Comforter, A Study of The Nature and Work of God The Holy Spirit* (Longmans, Green & Co., 4s. 6d.). In his usual clear way, Canon Green gives expression to his strong conviction that Western civilisation is moving towards a great catastrophe from which nothing can save it except a great revival of Spiritual religion. He deals with living problems and practical issues in seven chapters. These concern the Holy Spirit in Creation, Regeneration and Conversion, Edification and Sanctification, the Sacraments and the Church. While we appreciate much of what Canon Green says, there are in the last two chapters on the Sacraments and the Church, a number of points on which we cannot accept his views. Canon Green is always a stimulating and suggestive writer, and we value the frankness and sincerity with which he asserts his convictions.

A cheaper edition has been called for of Dean Inge's two volumes

of *Outspoken Essays* (Longmans, Green & Co., 3s. 6d. each). The characteristics of these Essays are already well known. Dean Inge expresses in them with his usual force his views on many matters of special importance. Many will welcome the opportunity of obtaining these volumes in this cheaper edition.

In 1925 Professor Y. Brilioth, of the University of Uppsala, published a book in English on *The Anglican Revival*, Studies in the Oxford Movement. Probably in view of the celebration of the Centenary this year the volume has been re-issued (Longmans, Green & Co., 5s. net). The Bishop of Gloucester contributes a Preface in which he considers the merits and demerits of the Movement. Dr. Brilioth's interesting account of the Movement has established itself as a useful presentation of the main facts and tendencies of the Oxford development written by an outsider and from a foreign point of view. The re-issue will give many an opportunity of reading a book that well merits careful study.

Another book from Uppsala is *The Mystery of The Cross*, by Nathan Söderblom, the late Archbishop. The translation is by A. G. Hebert, M.A. (Student Christian Movement Press, 2s.). It is a translation of a chapter in the Archbishop's book, *The Story of The Passion of Christ*, and is a devotional study suitable for "Holy Week and Other Weeks." These meditations upon the Crucifixion will provide much food for thought for those who are giving Addresses during Holy Week. There is a mystery in the Cross, and he seeks to penetrate it and to express a value of which no rationalistic thinking can deprive mankind.

Canon E. E. Raven, who is a brother of Canon C. E. Raven, the Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, has chosen an attractive title, *The Heart of Christ's Religion* (Longmans, Green & Co., 6s. net), for his survey of the central Inspiration of Christianity. Writing from his experience of practical work among men, first in Hoxton and later in Cambridge, he seeks to meet the difficulties of young people. He finds a tendency at present in the Church to over-organisation, and for the system to deaden the Spirit, so he would lead us back to Love as the inspiring power. And then he traces it through its various manifestations in individual life and character (he lays strong emphasis on Conversion) in the Church, and in theological thought.

Canon A. L. Lilley issues his Paddock Lectures given in the General Theological Seminary at New York in 1931 under the title of *Religion and Revelation* (S.P.C.K., 4s. 6d. net). He describes his subject in the sub-title, A Study of some Moments in the Effort of Christian Theology to define their Relations. He shows that the traditional view of Revelation is the classic one in the theology of Christendom, and he studies this tradition especially in St. Thomas Aquinas. The modern critical views have disturbed this classical tradition, and the impact of fresh knowledge has led to the need of some measure of adjustment. Canon Lilley's suggestion is that this adjustment may be found in regarding Revealed Truth as having more of the nature of poetic symbolism than of

the clear-cut and sufficient statements of the logical reason. His close acquaintance with the history of religious thought makes his treatment of the subject a valuable contribution to the study of some aspects of an important subject.

*The Treasure House of the Living Religions*, compiled and edited by Robert Ernest Hume, Professor of the History of Religions, Union Theological Seminary in New York (Charles Scribner's Sons, 12s. 6d.), is the outcome of immense industry. The author has spent seventeen years studying documents and MSS. containing the sacred writings of the world and comparing various translations, also making his own where necessary; so that we have 3,074 pronouncements gathered from the sacred writings of the world under 50 classifications. These represent exact statements from each of the world's eleven Living Religions on all the important phases of religious thought and life. It is claimed that nothing like it has previously existed, that its utility will be found to be inexhaustible, and that it will be a standard work for generations to come. The actual quotations fill 300 pages, the remaining 177 provide a scheme of reference notes, a bibliography, table of citations, and a topical index which must have entailed prodigious work but provides the student with an adequate means of tracing any of the quotations given. Agreements, rather than disagreements, have been sought, and they present aspects of the consensus to be found in the various Living Religions.

Miss Dorothy Mills, Head of the Historical Department of the Brearley School, New York, has written *The People of Ancient Israel* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 7s. 6d.). From an extensive experience in teaching the history of the ancient world to young people she has drawn up a vivid account of the heroes, prophets, and poets of the Hebrew People. As the history of the People centres round the story of their search to know the character of God, this is the central thought of the book. There are several useful maps and charts, and a reference list of Bible stories as well as a short list of books for further reading.

Last year a Committee of the diocese of St. Albans issued a book of *Outlines of Teaching Sermons* for the year. A similar book has been issued of *Outlines* for a second year (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 2s. and 3s. 6d.). They cover seven sections including God and Man; Prophetic Religion; The Making of The New Testament; The Person of Christ; The Holy Spirit; and Christian Life in the World.

*The Wind Lady and The Twins* (C.M.S., 2s. 6d. net) is an attractive little book written in Reginald Callender's engaging style. The story, told by a twin, has a distinct Missionary lead, and may reasonably be expected to implant the zeal-seed for foreign service in the minds of small people from the ages of seven to ten years.

*An Introduction to the Christian Doctrine of God*, by Canon W. J. Brown, of Wakefield (S.P.C.K., 1s. 6d. net), is a simple examination of the chief aspects of the subject with special reference to the difficulties of our times. It follows familiar lines of argument.

*Effective Evangelism* is a new and largely re-written edition of the Rev. Lionel B. Fletcher's book which appeared in 1923. He has added largely from his extensive experiences as a Missioner during the past ten years (Religious Tract Society, 3s. 6d. net).

*Values of The Incarnation* are the Moorhouse Lectures delivered in Melbourne in 1931 by the Rev. P. A. Micklem, D.D., Rector of St. James, Sydney (S.P.C.K., 5s. net). The author follows somewhat familiar lines in tracing out the Anticipations of the Incarnation in the Old Testament, some views in regard to it as developed in the Early Church; the Incarnation as immanent in the Creative order as well as in the Church, and in the Moral order, ending with the Anglican Tradition on the subject, and with the idea that the Eucharist is a continual Renewal of the Incarnation.

The Student Christian Movement Press has issued three books on interesting subjects. *The Faiths of Mankind* by William Paton, M.A., Secretary of The International Missionary Council (2s. 6d. net), sets out the position of Christianity in regard to some of the facts of human experience such as Sin and Suffering, and contrasts it with what has been said in Mohammedanism and Buddhism, and strongly states the case for the Christian World Mission. *Building on Sand* (1s. net), by Malcolm Spencer, M.A., Secretary of the Christian Social Council, is described as a Christian Searchlight upon the basis of our economic life. While deprecating Marxian Socialism on the one hand and Economic Nationalism on the other, the author seeks to apply Christian principles to the problems of unemployment, investments, and other matters which are causing concern to many people at the present time. A brief *Memoir of John Primat Maud, Bishop of Kensington*, has been written by Miss Maisie Fletcher (2s. 6d.). This interesting account tells of Dr. Maud's work at Leeds and Bristol, and afterwards for twenty years as Bishop of Kensington. A High Churchman of the Gore school he exhibited considerable independence of thought and action during his episcopal service.

In *Perils of the Polar Pack*, Archdeacon Fleming of the Arctic tells the story of the Rev. E. W. T. Greenshields as Missionary in Blacklead Island, Baffin Land. It is an interesting and, in places, an exciting story of the dangers of the early pioneer work in the Arctic regions.

*Christian Theism in Contemporary Thought*, by R. G. Legge, Vicar of St. Mark, Victoria Park, E.9 (price 2s. 6d. from the Author), is a collection of the traditional arguments for the Christian Belief in God as set forth by eminent modern thinkers, the chief objections to Theism being also considered. This is the first of a series of Christian Evidence Handbooks which Mr. Legge is compiling as the outcome of his experience in discussing with thoughtful working men the grounds of Christian conviction. He has covered a large range of thinkers and has set out their views to the best advantage.

G. F. I.

## CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

WINE OFFICE COURT, FLEET STREET, E.C.4.

**The Oxford Movement Centenary.**—A review of *The Tractarian Movement 1833-1845*, by Bishop Knox, appears in this number. It is a study of the Oxford Movement as a phase of the religious revival in Western Europe in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and the Bishop's object is particularly to indicate why that Movement failed to establish its ideal of the Anglican Church in relation to the Holy Catholic Church. The price is 10s. 6d. (postage 9d.).

The article by Academicus entitled the *Attitude of Evangelicals to the Celebration of the Centenary of the Oxford Movement*, which appeared in the January number of *The Churchman* has now been published as a pamphlet at 3d. It has already had a large circulation, and we trust that it will be bought and distributed as widely as possible among the clergy and those interested. The article will enable Evangelicals to understand their obvious duty in regard to the Celebration, and we are deeply indebted to "Academicus" for the able and scholarly examination which he has made of the whole situation.

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**Evangelicals.**—In 1908 the Rev. G. R. Balleine published *A History of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England*. This was republished a year later and again in 1912, but has been out of print for some years. We are glad to be able to announce the publication of a new impression at 3s. 6d. (postage 6d.) which contains the original illustrations of the 1908 edition and the postscripts and notes of the 1912 edition. The publication of this book is particularly useful at the present moment in view of the statements that are being made in regard to the Centenary of the Oxford Movement. It is important that Churchmen of all schools should recognise the position and true power of the Evangelical school. Mr. Balleine has produced a work valuable alike in its accuracy and its fairness, and the demand for its republication has come to us not only from the mother country but from the Dominions overseas. Mr. Balleine makes clear in his book the important distinction which ought to be observed between "low Churchmen" and "Evangelicals." He is singularly illuminating on many similar points. So clearly does he represent the respective position of the other parties in the Church to the Evangelicals that we might well describe his work as the *History of a Great Persecution*. From the days of the Oxford Methodists onward the Evangelicals were the object of disgraceful persecution and inveterate dislike. When the Evangelical preaching of William Romaine was attracting crowds to the Church where he was lecturer, the Vicar and Churchwardens locked the pulpit, and only on the compulsion of the King's Bench did they allow him the use of an unlighted and unwarmed Church. Mr. Balleine on pages 210 and 211 provides a necessary corrective to the foolish charge, so often ignorantly made, that the Oxford Movement was due to the decadence of Evangelicals.

Mr. Balleine shows in his *History* the development of the Movement which saved England in the eighteenth century from religion and produced such men as Adam, Venn, Fletcher, Newton and Scott. He deals with the pioneer work done by Evangelicals in parochial organisation, in district visiting, in the introduction of Evening Service and Early Communion, and

all the other activities which are now the ordinary features of a well-worked parish and which are assumed by the ignorant and intolerant to be the monopoly of "Catholics."

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**The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year.**—Arrangements have been made with the Executors of the estates of Victoria, Lady Carbery and the late Lord Brentford for Lady Carbery's Hymn Book, The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year, to be handed over to the National Church League, and the transfer has now been made. Messrs. Novello & Co., Ltd., and Messrs. Marshall Morgan & Scott will be responsible for the publication as before, but all applications for grants of books should be made to the National Church League. Grants, however, can only be given in future to those churches introducing the book and they cannot be repeated. It will be remembered that the book was revised and approved by a Representative Committee of Clergy in 1917. It was compiled by Victoria, Lady Carbery, and the Musical Directors were Dr. Hugh Blair and Mr. Lister R. Peace. The collection of hymns for the public worship of the Church of England involved much patient and discriminating research. In addition to the new hymns, the book contains most of the old favourites in their original form. The arrangement follows the order of the Church's Year, and a special Calendar is provided to assist the clergy in the task of selecting hymns. The price of the Music edition with complete Index is 7s. 6d.; for choir use, 6s.; and the words only edition, 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. A Children's Supplement is issued separately, Music edition, 2s. 6d.; words only, limp cloth, 6d.; paper cover, 3d.

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**A Popular Re-issue.**—Mr. Albert Mitchell needs no introduction to our readers, and his little book, *The Faith of an English Churchman*, has a special interest as setting forth the belief of a layman of long experience in Church life on various articles of the Christian faith. It contains much in a small compass of vital significance to true interpretations of the nature of the Church and its theological foundations. It is a book of short devotional readings, with ample references to Scripture. It is an appropriate gift to the newly confirmed and the present cheap re-issue at 1s. (postage 2d.) makes it possible that it may be used largely for this purpose. The original cloth-bound edition is still obtainable at 2s. 6d. (postage 3d.).

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**Dr. Griffith Thomas.**—An abridgment of Dr. Griffith Thomas's valuable handbook, *The Work of the Ministry*, now out of print, was issued in the United States a little time ago under the title, *Ministerial Life and Work*. This book gives substantial help and inspiration to the younger clergyman, to the Student for Holy Orders, and to the isolated Christian worker. Into it have gone the knowledge and experience gained in a long and fruitful ministry, and an intensive study of the Scriptures. The book contains the substance of addresses given at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, during the author's five years there, on the various aspects of ministerial life and service which are usually included in the term Pastoral. A number of copies of the book have been obtained from America and are on sale in the Church Book Room, price 7s. 6d. (postage 6d.).

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**Good Friday.**—Attention is drawn to the *Addresses for Good Friday*, by the Rev. T. W. Gilbert, D.D. (post free 7d.), and to the *Form of Service for the Three Hours on Good Friday* arranged by him (2d., or 12s. per 100). Another service of addresses compiled by the Rev. H. Browning entitled *Seven Words from the Cross* (7d. post free) is also published by the Church Book Room.