

## NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THE Student Christian Movement undertook a useful task when it set out to provide teachers with a commentary specially suited to meet their needs. *The Teachers' Commentary*, edited by Hugh Martin, M.A., with Theodore H. Robinson, D.D., as Editor for the Old Testament and L. W. Grensted, D.D., as Editor for the New Testament, deserves high praise as an excellent piece of work, which is issued at the moderate figure of 8s. 6d., a sum within the reach of teachers of all degrees. The Editors have secured the co-operation of a long list of helpers, all of whom have expert knowledge of teaching work, and many of them special training in the exposition of Biblical subjects. It would be impossible to mention all who have made valuable contributions, and to discriminate where all is so good would be difficult. We can only indicate some of the special features of the work. The General Articles on the Bible are on, Why teach the Bible?; Inspiration; Miracles; Palestine: The Land and the People. Some illustrations and a General Bibliography add to the usefulness of this section. A large portion of the commentary on the Old Testament is from the pen of Dr. Theodore H. Robinson, who is recognised as one of the most competent authorities on the Old Testament. The Rev. W. E. Beck, of St. Paul's College, Cheltenham, is the writer on Jeremiah, and makes a contribution to the study of the prophet valuable alike for its information and style.

In the New Testament portion Canon C. E. Raven writes on "The Beginnings of Christian Doctrine," Canon Grensted on "The Making of the New Testament," and Dr. J. A. Findlay on "The World to which Christ came." Mr. F. J. Rae is responsible for the majority of St. Paul's Epistles.

As the Commentary is specially intended for teachers the space allotted to various parts of the subject has been determined by practical teaching consideration, and its wide use is assured from the wise method adopted, and the certainty that teachers will find in the volume in handy form the information they need to render their teaching adequate, interesting and effective.

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Dr. Albert Schweitzer is as well known for his versatility as for his devotion and self-sacrifice in the cause of humanity. He is a Doctor of Theology, a Doctor of Philosophy, a Doctor of Medicine, and he is also well qualified to be a Doctor of Music. For years he has devoted himself to medical missionary work in the heart of Equatorial Africa, and in the stillness of the primeval forest between the years 1914-17, when the world was passing through the upheaval of the Great War, he devoted himself to working out the problems raised by the conditions of our modern civilisation. He is publishing the results of his reflections in a series of volumes on *The Philosophy*

*of Civilisation.* A second edition of the first of the series on *The Decay and the Restoration of Civilisation* has been issued in an English translation by C. T. Champion, M.A. (Oxon) (A. & C. Black, Ltd. 6s. net). In this he shows the failure of philosophy to provide civilisation with an adequate world view. In consequence the ethical ideals upon which civilisation must be based have been lost. The restoration of civilisation can only be obtained by a recovery of a world view, which will give these ethical ideals their true place and full value. Dr. Schweitzer's careful analysis of the whole situation must be reckoned with in any future philosophical treatment of the essential elements of human society.

The changing East is displayed in its rapidly altering conditions in a book which we warmly recommend to all desirous of appreciating the motives inspiring the great upheaval which has changed the face of China in recent years. A series of chapters by a group of Chinese Christians has been edited by William Lung, Professor of History, Yenching University, Peiping, *As It Looks to Young China*, S. C. M. Press (2s. 6d. net). A vivid picture is presented of some of the most important phases of modern Chinese life. The old institution of the Family which was a special feature of Chinese tradition is being broken down by the impact of the new forces in social life. The whole character of Education has been changed. Contact with the West has led to "Foreignization" and many consequent difficulties. The vicissitudes of a young man's life in search of a career is pathetically depicted in the chapter headed "The Vocation." The influence of Communism in the political life is shown to be disruptive. Some frank statements are made on the Christian Church. "The Church as an institution for worship, for spreading the Gospel, for keeping and perpetuating doctrines, has not made a definite and deep impression upon the Chinese educated class." "There is no question about whether or not the young generation needs the Church. The question is whether, in the face of unprecedented and easily disappearing opportunities, the Church is able to grasp an urgent situation and fulfil its God-given mission." This is a book to be read by all who wish to understand something of what is taking place in China.

Dr. W. J. Sparrow Simpson, D.D., has written *The History of the Anglo-Catholic Revival from 1845* (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 8s. 6d. net). As an ardent Anglo-Catholic, Dr. Simpson seeks to set the Tractarian Movement in as favourable a light as possible, from the time of Newman's going over to Rome, until the present day when the Church of England is suffering the logical consequences of the theories of the Church—its Ministry and Sacraments which came in with the Oxford Movement. Their appeal was to the Primitive Church, but unfortunately they did not go back far enough, and the period from the fourth to the eighth centuries provided them with sufficient materials upon which to base the errors in teaching and practice now bearing fruit.

Dr. A. J. Mackinnon, the author of *The Rome of St. Paul*, has just issued a companion volume, *The Rome of the Early Church* (Lutterworth Press, 7s. 6d. net), with photographs by Louis Bailey Audigier. Dr. MacKinnon has a special gift of presenting historical scenes vividly and graphically; and in this volume he tells how Christianity came to Rome and the way in which it won at last its supreme position. Readers will be specially interested in the account which is given of the Catacombs; not alone of their ancient use as burying places but of their re-discovery after centuries when every trace of them had been lost. A thrilling picture is given of the persecutions and the scenes in the Colosseum when the Christians were delivered to lions for the amusement of the populace. These are but a few of the interesting points raised in a book of unusual interest.

The second volume of Dr. A. C. McGiffert's *History of Christian Thought* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 12s. 6d. net) maintains the interest of the first volume, which dealt with the early and eastern period. This volume covers the west from the time of Tertullian to that of Erasmus. In dealing with this extensive area he has chosen the greatest names, and thus presents a clear impression of the varying elements in the different ages covered. It is impossible to do full justice in a brief notice to the merits of Dr. McGiffert's work. We can only strongly recommend our readers to study his estimates of Tertullian, Cyprian, and Augustine in the first section to obtain a clear view of their significance in Christian thought. Similarly, in the second period, Anselm, Abelard, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, are among the representative writers considered, and the main lines of their teaching are clearly set out. In this section there are also important chapters on the Sacraments, and the Church and the Papacy. The volume closes with chapters on Eckhart and the Mystics, and Erasmus and the Humanists, in both of which the beginnings of modern movements are treated. Students of Christian thought will find in this volume a valuable aid to a true comprehension of the influences that have been at work at different times in the Christian Church.

The late Bishop Knight, whose comparatively early death was a source of deep regret to Church people, gave a course of Pastoral Theology lectures at Cambridge in 1925-6. These have now been published with an Introduction by the Bishop of Durham under the title *Fulfilling the Ministry* (Cambridge University Press, 7s. 6d. net). Apart from some few points in which we are not in full agreement with the writer, we can recommend this volume to the younger clergy as an inspiring guide on many matters connected with their work. It presents the teaching of the Church of England with clearness; it explains the duties of the clergy in regard to their studies, their preaching, their pastoral work, and their devotional life with forcible and decisive emphasis. No one can read it without appreciating the high ideals set out.

G. F. I.

## CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

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

**The Oxford Movement Centenary.**—In addition to the books named in the April number of *THE CHURCHMAN*, a popular book has been written by Mr. W. Prescott Upton entitled *The Churchman's History of the Oxford Movement* (2s. 6d. Postage 3d.). Although this account of the Oxford Movement is comparatively brief, it covers its development up to recent times and contains a quantity of useful information which cannot be obtained elsewhere. It answers many of the claims made for the Movement in the propaganda booklets issued in connection with the Centenary.

Two pamphlets, price 2d. each, have also been printed, one being the article by the Rev. T. C. Hammond on *The Evangelical Revival and the Oxford Movement* which appeared in *THE CHURCHMAN* for April, and the other a new pamphlet entitled *The Oxford Movement; A Centenary Sketch*, by the Rev. D. Taylor Wilson, Vicar of All Saints', Tufnell Park. The Rev. J. M. Hewitt, Vicar and Rural Dean of Islington, contributes a foreword in which he states: "In this brief but comprehensive statement by the Rev. D. Taylor Wilson, the history, teaching and main objective of this reactionary 'movement' towards Mediaevalism are clearly set forth."

Two leaflets for insertion in Parish Magazines are also available and can be obtained for 1s. and 6d. per 100 respectively.

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**Sunday School Lesson Books.**—In response to many requests, it is proposed to publish a reprint of the Rev. G. R. Balleine's *Christianity in Action*, price 2s., for use in Sunday School work this year. Other books by Mr. Balleine which are in print and which will be available are: *Lessons from the Hymn Book*, *The Message of the Prayer Book*, *The Young Churchman*, and *Lessons from the Life of Christ*. These are all published at 2s. each.

For younger children, the books available will be *Days in the Life of Christ and Stories Jesus Loved*, by Miss Marcella Whitaker; *Bible Tales for Little Folks* and *More Bible Tales for Little Folks*, by Mrs. Macdougall Ferguson; *Stories for the Little People in Sunday School and Home*, and *More Stories for the Little People in Sunday School and Home*, by Deaconesses Oakley and Ethel Luke. These are published at 1s. 6d. each.

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**Book Racks.**—We draw attention to the Book Racks which we supply for the sale of literature in Church porches or parish halls. These racks have had a very large sale, and are an excellent means of advertising and circulating literature. In one district in particular, upwards of ten pounds' worth of penny and twopenny pamphlets were distributed during August and September. Two racks are now supplied, one containing space for a Parish Magazine which is suitable for standing on a table, size 22 × 12 × 7½ in., and the other, which is more suitable for showing individual pamphlets, can be placed on a wall, size 19 × 22 × 2½ in. Each rack is fitted with a strong money box, with a lock and key, in which purchasers can place the amount of their purchases. We are able to allow a discount of 25 per cent. on all supplies for these Book Racks on orders of 10s. or more, provided the pamphlets are published by the Church Book Room.

**Family Prayers.**—*Family Prayers* (2d.), by the Rev. A. F. Thornhill, which was originally published in the English Church Manual Series, has had a very large circulation and is still in great demand. We are constantly asked for a more strongly bound copy than the paper cover, and have now issued an edition in limp cloth at 6d. and in stiff boards at 1s.

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**The Holy Communion.**—The Rev. A. St. John Thorpe's *Devotional Studies in the Holy Communion Service* (6d., paper cover) has also been bound in cloth at 1s. This book is being used for Confirmation Candidates, and consists of six Sermons, which are warmly commended by Bishop Knox, who says: "Sound doctrine is the mother of true worship and of heartfelt devotion, and the relentless foe of pure superstition." What Dr. Knox commends is not only sound doctrine, but Evangelical truth set forth with religious fervour and close adhesion to the teaching of Holy Scripture. These addresses are the fruit of careful thinking, knowledge of what men need as a guide, and loyal attachment to the Book of Common Prayer. We wish that similar courses may be preached in all our Churches, and these will serve as guide to the best way of treating the subject. Ignorance is the best buttress of the case of Anglo-Catholicism. When our people know the Truth they will not accept error.

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**The Daily Walk.**—Cornelia, Lady Wimborne's *Daily Walk*, Devotions for every day of the year, is published at 5s. in dark blue cloth, and at 7s. 6d. in cloth gilt (postage 6d.). Lady Wimborne in compiling this little book had, in the first instance, the underlying thought to help those who had been joined together in matrimony to walk together in the narrow way, but it was suggested to her that the book might, with advantage, be widened in scope. In accordance with this idea, the choice of subjects was enlarged, and by not superseding, and still keeping in view, the original object, the compilation was made for the use of people in general but more especially for the young. It was felt that in putting the Bible in the hands of the young, some guidance and direction as to what they should read would be of value to them. The daily portions selected are short and adapted to the exigencies of a busy life. Above all, the extracts from the Bible have been chosen with the object of making people more familiar with the glories of the Book, both from its spiritual and its literary merit.

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**Elementary Bible Studies.**—The Rev. A. du T. Pownall's book, *Elementary Bible Studies*, being some notes on the historical books of the Old Testament (price 6d. in paper cover), will be found a great help to those who read the Bible for their own soul's sustenance, and essential to those who expound it for the instruction of others, to have in their minds a clear-cut analysis of each book's contents. This elementary handbook supplies an admirable summary of the books from Genesis to Esther, the works of such masters of exposition as Dr. Griffith Thomas and the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan having been laid under contribution. It was originally prepared to help candidates who offer for work in the Colonies under the Colonial and Continental Church Society. Readers will do well to buy a copy. Candidates for examinations will find it invaluable.

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