

## NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THE Bishop of London's Lent book this year is *The Gate of Life*, by W. R. Inge, Dean of St. Paul's, 1911-34 (Longmans, Green and Co., 2s. 6d. net). The Addresses are selected from a number given in the past and several of them were intended in the first instance for University students. They deal with a number of current problems which the Dean treats with his accustomed sincerity and boldness. The question of pain and suffering, the Life after Death, Humanism, Secularism, and many similar matters are touched upon. Many will find much material for serious thought in these inspiring Addresses.

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The Universal Christian Council for Life and Work is preparing for a world Conference to be held in 1937. One of the most important subjects to be considered will be the Relation of the Church to the State and to the Community. To prepare for the discussion, Dr. J. H. Oldham has issued a booklet, *Church, Community and State* (Student Christian Movement Press, 1s. net). This really brilliant pamphlet should be read by all in view of the great stakes that are at issue at the present time in regard to the relationship of Church and State in various countries. The characteristics of the Totalitarian State are examined, and the nature of the life-and-death struggle with this modern paganism is indicated. It is a battle which has to be waged in the field of public education, and Christian people have to realise that the situation resembles in many respects that of the early centuries of the Church in the Roman Empire. These new philosophies and social systems have to be met by thought, and he directs attention to the central problem of modern life, how to reconcile the organisation of society with the freedom of thought essential to a truly human life. The widely different views at present held in various Christian communities will have to be united and focussed, if any adequate solution is to be found when the Conference meets. Dr. Oldham's booklet will be found a most useful guide for the consideration of the whole subject.

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The Harrison Trust has issued a book that should be of exceptional use at the present time in view of the endeavour to systematise the practice of Sacramental Confession in our Church. *The Confessional in the Church of England*, a Review of the teaching of Scripture and the practice of the Church on Confession and Absolution, by G. E. Alison Weeks, M.A., B.D., LL.D. (1s. 6d. net). Incorporated with this is the *Fallacy of Sacramental Confession* by the late Charles Neil, M.A. Dr. Weeks makes a careful examination of the teaching of Scripture, the Practice of the Early Church, the Development of the Sacrament of Penance, the Theory of the Power of the Keys, and shows that the confessional is out

of harmony with the whole conception of Christianity of a Reformed Church. Mr. Neil's three sermons on the subject are full of sound teaching on the same lines.

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The Venerable J. W. Hunkin, D.D., Archdeacon of Coventry, has written a series of *Brief Introductions to the Lessons for Sundays and Holy days according to the New Lectionary* (S.P.C.K., 4s. net). As the practice of reading a short introduction to the lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer has been instituted at many Churches in order that the Congregation may be able to grasp more intelligently the significance of what they hear, it is necessary that the statements should be brief, clear, and to the point. It will be found that Dr. Hunkin's introductions meet all these requirements and many will be glad to have the help that they afford.

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*The Transfiguration of Our Lord* is always a subject of special interest to New Testament Students, and many theories have been evolved as to its nature and meaning. Canon J. B. Lancelot, M.A., has issued a series of seven Addresses on the subject which we commend to our readers as a careful and practical survey of a "very significant Gospel scene." His conclusion is that the Transfiguration told of things to come. It revealed the possibilities of humanity and the beauty that is yet to be revealed. It was only, however, after Our Lord's death that the full significance of the scene was realised, and the Transfiguration pointed to the Glory of the Risen Christ. This little book will be found useful by preachers who desire to take the Transfiguration as the subject of a course of sermons. (The Church Book Room, 1s. 6d. net.)

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Comment has recently been made on the fashion which now prevails of distinguished men writing an account of their lives before they go hence and are no more seen. It has been suggested that this is a needed protection against the man with a duster or a brush. In any case most of these records form interesting reading and we are grateful to their authors. Dr. W. S. Swayne, some time Bishop of Lincoln, is among the number of those who have followed this plan and in his retirement he has written his *Parson's Pleasure* (Wm. Blackwood and Sons, Ltd., 7s. 6d. net), which will find a large circle of sympathetic readers. He tells of his boyhood spent in the delightful surroundings of the New Forest where his father held a rectory. His career at New College, Oxford, promised a continued successful academic life as a Tutor; he passed, however, into the ministry and was soon Diocesan Missioner at Lichfield. Vicar of Walsall was his next appointment and this was followed by the charge of the important parish of St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, in the West End of London, and he soon became a Prebendary of St. Paul's. He was made Dean of Manchester in 1917, and was called to the bishopric of Lincoln in 1920 in succession to Dr. Hicks. During his University life Dr. Swayne came into close touch with the influential section of Churchmen of whom Gore

and Talbot were the leaders and it was natural that he should be among those chosen for high preferment, as he shared their views. Although his leanings were on the High Church side he was never an extreme partisan and was friendly disposed to those of other views. This account of his life is told in a very natural and unaffected way and may, as is suggested, provide a sincere and inspiring guide for a young clergyman, especially as the future Bishop in his earlier days had no special favour for Bishops.

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*Our Heritage* is the title of the Annual Report issued this year by the British and Foreign Bible Society. In a brief preface, the Rev. J. A. Patten, the Literary Superintendent, suggests the origin of the title. "The Bible in the mother tongue is the rightful heritage of all men. This little book shows how that heritage was won for us through the labours and sacrifices of our forefathers, and describes how through the Bible Society it is being handed on through men and women of many races and languages in all parts of the world." The Report of the Bible Society is always excellently produced and provides fascinating reading for all who are interested in the spread of the Gospel in other lands. This Report provides in addition to the history of the Bible in our own land many incidents of the work of translators and colporteurs in many parts of the world. The illustrations are unusually good and well chosen. The closing chapter indicates the needs of the Society for the extension of its work, and contains an appeal that cannot easily be resisted.

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A Collection of the most important Devotional Works of the Rev. A. H. McNeile, D.D., formerly Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Dublin, has been published by W. Heffer & Sons, Cambridge (6s. net). Dr. Weekes, the Master of Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge, speaks in his Foreword of Dr. McNeile's services to the Church not only as a learned scholar but also as a leader of retreats and as a preacher conscious of the spiritual needs of ordinary men and women. The books reprinted are: *Self-Training in Prayer*, *After this Manner Pray Ye*, *Self-Training in Meditation*, *Alive unto God*, *He led Captivity Captive*, and *Discipleship*. They contain the mature reflections of a deeply devotional High Churchman. They represent the reflections of a scholarly mind on the chief facts of religious experience, and they are practical in their application to the needs of the soul. Their chief aim is the training of the Christian in the best methods of developing the spiritual life through prayer and meditation. They deal with problems of the intellect such as the average man may experience, as well as with those that assail the man of intellect, who has been in contact with the writings of the men of science and the philosophers. For them he is not afraid to maintain that "no arguments alone can prove the fact of Christ, because arguments must be logical, and Christianity is not logical: it is life gained by the losing of Self."

## CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

## 7, WINE OFFICE COURT, LONDON, E.C.4.

**Silver Jubilee Service.**—The form of prayer for use at the Thanksgiving Service of their Majesties at St. Paul's Cathedral on May 6 and in other Churches in England on the ensuing Sunday, May 12, is in preparation, and will be published on April 15. Orders should be sent without delay in order to ensure delivery, and it is hoped that members of the League will send their orders to the Church Book Room as this will help the funds of the League. The prices are as follows: Pew Edition, 8 pages, 1*d.* per copy or 5*s.* per hundred; Larger type, 2*d.* per copy or 12*s.* 6*d.* per hundred.

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**Lent.**—*The Significance of the Cross*, a course of seven addresses, compiled by the Rev. Edwin Hirst, Vicar of St. Paul, Stockport (6*d.*), has just been published. It is helpful, reasoned and thoughtful, and many will find it valuable for use during Holy Week and Good Friday, and also to those who are going to help in definite work amongst the Godless and indifferent. It contains a concise history of the doctrine of the Atonement.

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**Good Friday.**—We remind our clerical readers of *A Form of Service for the Three Hours on Good Friday*, arranged by the Rev. T. W. Gilbert, D.D., and published by the Church Book Room at 2*d.* or 12*s.* per hundred. In connection with this Dr. Gilbert has also written a series of addresses, *Some Great Truths about Redemption*, entitled *Seven Times He Spake* (6*d.*). The two can be sent for 9*d.* post free. Another series of addresses entitled *The Seven Words from the Cross*, by the Rev. H. Browning (6*d.*), is also published by the Church Book Room.

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**The Enabling Act.**—The Diocesan Conference Regulation, 1935, which was passed by the Church Assembly at their Spring Session this year, makes this section in the Red Book on *The Enabling Act*, by Mr. Albert Mitchell, obsolete. A new print of the Red Book has therefore been prepared, inserting the new Regulation, and can be obtained at 1*s.* post free.

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**The Reformation.**—Two important works entitled *The Reformation and Reunion*, by the Rev. C. Sydney Carter, D.D., and *The Life and Work of John Wycliffe*, by Canon Dyson Hague, D.D., will shortly be published by the Church Book Room at 3*s.* 6*d.* each. Dr. Carter's book is issued with an appreciation by Bishop Knox and a Foreword by Dr. Guy Warman, Bishop of Manchester. Bishop Knox describes the book as invaluable, and states that it should be prayerfully studied and mastered. Dr. Guy Warman warmly commends the book and welcomes its issue at a time when we are beginning to think of the 300th anniversary of the placing of the Bible in our Anglican Churches. This book formed one of the three theses which were accepted by the University of Oxford in 1933 and upon which Dr. Carter received his degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Canon Dyson Hague's work is also issued opportunely, this year being the 550th anniversary of Wycliffe's death. Dr. Dyson Hague has made full

use of all the recent contributions of the literature of John Wycliffe, especially the great biography published a few years ago by Dr. Workman, and has given us a useful book. The whole effect is excellent and we are sure the author will accomplish his desire to "not only freshen up in many readers their knowledge of this extraordinary English Christian, but awaken in all a sense of our debt unpayable to this great Churchman."

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**Why I am a Churchman.**—Copies of Canon Odum's booklet, entitled *Why I am a Churchman*, can now be obtained at 1d. each. It is specially intended for circulation among young Churchpeople, particularly Confirmation candidates. The present issue, which has had a large circulation, has reached its twenty-second thousand.

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**Confirmation Register.**—Owing to several communications on this matter the Church Book Room has published a Confirmation Register, as so many of those in existence do not contain sufficient room for the necessary particulars. This, we hope, has been rectified by the new Register, which is now on sale. The size is 8 inches by 12 inches, and the price 5s. for 500 names and 7s. 6d. for 1,000 names (postage 6d.).

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**Communicants' Manuals.**—For presentation to Confirmees we again recommend the following books: *Helps to the Christian Life* (new edition), by the Rev. T. W. Gilbert, D.D. (leather, 2s.; cloth gilt, 1s. 6d.; cloth, 1s.). This manual, containing advice and suggestions on Prayer and Bible Study, and also instructions and devotions before, at the time of, and after Holy Communion, has been found a real help to the young and to the adult communicant. *My First Communion*, by the Rev. A. R. Runnels-Moss (cloth, 1s.), has reached a third edition, and is a simple explanation of the Sacrament and Office, together with the Service. A third edition of Canon Barnes-Lawrence's valuable manual, *The Holy Communion: Its Institution, Purpose, Privilege*, has been issued in three forms (cloth gilt, 1s. 6d.; cloth limp, 9d.; paper, 6d.). The body of the book is largely devotional, and some instruction on difficult points is given in an appendix. It is particularly useful for presentation to Public School boys and girls. We also recommend *At the Lord's Table*, by the Bishop of Chelmsford (cloth gilt, 1s. 6d.; cloth, 1s.). The "preparation" is very practical and shows a true appreciation of the lives and thought of the younger generation. The Self-examination portion is not overdone and is on original lines. It has three lines of thought—one based on the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians v.; one on the Beatitudes; and one on the shorter Exhortation.

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**Foreign Stamps.**—Some readers of THE CHURCHMAN have sent us packages of foreign stamps for sale in the Book Room in aid of the funds of the League. We have found that these have been exceedingly useful, but unfortunately the supply is not equal to the demand and we should be very grateful for further gifts.