

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THE Lutterworth Press has issued a book of *Prayers for School Use* by C. M. Fox (2s. 6d.). The prayers cover a great variety of occasions and include, among others, petitions for mental and bodily vigour, for faithful service, for our relation with God, and victory over sin. A useful list of the prayers and their subjects is appended. It provides a handy guide to devotions. *Morning Prayers and Readings for School and Family*, arranged by Mrs. Guy Rogers, has reached a second edition, and is issued in cheap form in paper covers at one shilling. This is evidence of the appreciation with which the book has been received.

The Christian Alternative is a series of definite Christian instructions by Commander R. G. Studd, D.S.O. (Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1s.). In a direct and forceful fashion the chief elements of Christian faith and light are set out so as to show that there is an alternative to the life inspired by materialistic conception. It is written in the humble hope that it may be a help to some fellow-traveller along life's high road.

Valiant in Fight, by B. F. C. Atkinson, M.A., Ph.D. (The Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Evangelical Unions, 2s. 6d. net), is "a review of the Christian conflict." It describes various phases of the conflict in which Christianity has been engaged throughout the history of the centuries, degenerating into errors in the Middle Ages from which it was saved at the Reformation. The interesting historical account ends with the work needed in our own day to preserve and to strengthen Protestantism. The Fellowship has also issued *Problems of Faith and Conduct* (1s. 6d.), by the Rev. W. S. Hooton, B.D., with a Foreword by the Rev. J. Russell Howden, B.D., who commends the book as giving a comprehensive, balanced, sane, and thoroughly Scriptural answer to many perplexing and practical difficulties which confront people in this day of intellectual and spiritual unsettlement. Mr. Hooton lays down in definite terms the meaning of the Gospel, and then goes on to consider various aspects of prayer. He then deals with problems of property and examines the limits of controversy and the limits of co-operation. Much useful advice on belief and conduct is given.

Daily Sunshine from the Bible is a series of readings for every day in the year, by the Rev. Richard Wood-Samuel (Lutterworth Press, 3s. 6d. net). Mr. Wood-Samuel, as Editor of the *Daily Message*, the magazine of the Church Bible Study Union, has wide experience of the needs of Bible readers, and he has provided a helpful commentary on well-selected passages of Scripture for every day of the year. The book will be found profitable for private reading by lonely souls who need sunshine in their lives.

Why 834 Priests Left the Church of Rome (Protestant Truth Society, 2s. 6d.), is a compilation by Mr. Albert Close in which he records the names of the large number of priests who have left the Roman Church. This is the second edition of a book that has already had a wide circulation, and further interesting particulars are given of recent converts. There is so much prominence given to every case of conversion to the Church of Rome that it is well to have such particulars as are given here of those who have left the Ministry of Rome. It has been said that three out of four converts afterwards leave the Church of Rome, and that the number of Roman Priests who have applied to Anglican Bishops for admission to minister in the National Church is as large as the number of Clergy who left the National Church for Rome.

The Bishop of Chichester in his primary Visitation Charge dealt with *Common Order in Christ's Church*, 2s. The substance of the Charge has been so widely discussed in the Church Press that it is scarcely necessary to do more than remind our readers that the Bishop wished to curb in some measure the excesses of those Ritualists whose idea of Catholicism is to follow Rome even in its modern innovations. He lays considerable emphasis on the standard set up by the revision of the Prayer Book in 1927-8, but he has already had ample evidence that the extremists are not to be restrained within even the wide limits of that revision but are determined to go their own way in their imitation of Rome.

One of the forms of Paganism which Germany has adopted is the German Faith Movement. In a book entitled *Germany's New Religion*, 5s., Mr. T. S. K. Scott-Craig and Mr. R. E. Davies have translated three essays dealing with this new faith. The essayists approach their subject from widely different points of view. Wilhelm Hauer is the prophet of the new Paganism, and he endeavours to set it out as plausibly as he can. Karl Heim is one of Germany's leading Protestant theologians, and he shows the inadequacy of the New Paganism, especially in regard to responsibility and destiny. The third essay is by Professor Karl Adam who is a prominent Roman Catholic professor. He subjects the new Religion to criticism from the point of view of the spirit of this age and its attitude to Jesus Christ. The translators contribute an account of this neo-pagan movement in Germany.

Christendom and Islam, by Prebendary W. Wilson Cash, D.S.O., D.D. (Student Christian Movement Press, 5s. net), is an account of the Contacts and Cultures of the two religions down the centuries. Prebendary Cash is one of the greatest living authorities on this subject, and he has written a fascinating volume describing the chief objects of Islam and the contribution which Christianity has made to Islamic thought and life, and at the same time explains the contribution of Islam to the making of modern Europe. He tells of the influence of Europe in the disintegration of modern Islam. An important chapter deals with the Christian answer to the Moslem quest, and shows that the old-fashioned methods of controversy are not likely to produce much effect.