

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

FEW men in recent years were so well known in Evangelical circles throughout the world as Bishop Taylor Smith. In the last few years he had visited many parts of the Empire, United States, and some of the countries of central Europe to attend conferences, to preach sermons, and in many ways to advance the cause of Evangelical religion. It was on a voyage returning from one of these tours that he died on board the steamer *Orion* early in the present year. His death was lamented by a very wide circle of friends and by the members of the various societies with which he was connected. The Lutterworth Press has issued a biography written by Mr. Maurice Whitlow who describes him as "Everybody's Bishop" (2s. 6d. net). This popular account of the Bishop's life will be widely read. It goes to the root of the Bishop's character and shows that to do the will of God was the sole motive that inspired him. He was a student of St. John's Hall, Highbury, and was ordained to a curacy at Upper Norwood, and was there until he accepted a call to undertake work in Sierra Leone under Bishop Ingham who was at that time in charge of the diocese. In 1894 there was a war in Ashanti, and Prince Henry of Battenberg, husband of Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's daughter, took part in the expedition. He contracted fever and died. Messages were intrusted by him to Taylor Smith for the Queen, and he became an honoured and welcome guest with the royal family, being appointed an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen. He became Archdeacon of Sierra Leone and was appointed Bishop. He remained there until he was made Chaplain General, a post which he held till 1925. During the strenuous years of the war he had an onerous task which he carried out with conspicuous success in spite of the criticism of churchmen of another school, who thought that they could carry out the duties better than an Evangelical. He showed, however, that Evangelical principles met the deepest needs of the soldiers on the battlefield. Since his retirement he has been a conspicuous figure on Evangelical platforms, and a frequent speaker at Keswick and other Conventions. He was President of the Children's Special Service Mission and was actively associated with other Evangelical organizations. Mr. Whitlow has presented a vivid and forceful account of the Bishop.

Although the Society of Friends constitutes a comparatively small body of Christians, their influence far outweighs their numbers. This is due to many causes, but more particularly perhaps, to the enthusiasm which they display in many philanthropic and humanitarian enterprises, and to the generous contributions which they make to such

work. Their history is an interesting one, and an account of it written by Mr. A. Leave Brayshaw, B.A., LL.B., under the title *The Quakers : Their Story and Message*, has reached a third and considerably enlarged edition. (George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 5s. net). Every aspect of the Quaker movement is set out and the whole account is well documented. An adequate account is given of George Fox and the origin of the name "Quaker." An explanation is given of the true meaning of the "Inner Light" which is one of the chief characteristics of Quaker teaching and experience. An account is given of the extension of the movement to Ireland and America, and of the work of William Penn. Much persecution was suffered in the early days of the movement, but with the eighteenth century quieter times came and the Society encountered other dangers. The organization of the Society and the history of the Quaker Ministry are explained, the break with traditional observances in the nineteenth century is indicated, and the closing chapters tell of the important services rendered during and after the Great War. Many will be glad to have this interesting account of the Quaker Movement.

The Rev. Arthur Cleveland Downer, M.A., D.D., has spent a long life in the service of the Evangelical cause in the Church of England. He is already well known as the author of *The Mission and Administration of the Holy Spirit*, *The Principle of the Interpretation of the Epistle to the Hebrews*, and a *Memoir of Thomas Scott, the Commentator*. He began his career at Brazenose College, Oxford, in 1866, and he is now the senior member of the College. He has compiled a book about Oxford and the religious influences there largely based upon his own reminiscences. It has been issued by The Church Book Room, under the title, *A Century of Evangelical Religion in Oxford* (2s. 6d. net.). After a brief exposition of the principles of Evangelical Religion, and the meaning of Evangelical Churchmanship, he goes on to show that Evangelical thought has influenced the University more than many would allow. He gives a brief account of some of the outstanding Evangelical figures connected with the University and the chief churches of the city. Canon Christopher of St. Aldate's was a familiar figure on Evangelical platforms in days gone by. He was followed in 1905 by the Rev. G. Foster Carter, who was succeeded by the Rev. T. W. Ketchlee, and in 1922 the Rev. C. M. Chavasse, now Master of St. Peter's Hall, occupied the important post. St. Aldate's has been for some years the principal centre for promoting Evangelical religion. Brief accounts are also given of the ministrations in other churches. Among some of those of whom a special account is given are Canon Christopher, Canon Linton, the Rev. E. P. Hathaway, of whom Dr. Downer says : "Few, if any, have left a greater mark upon the Oxford of to-day. He was a first-rate organizer" ; the Rev. H. C. P. Bazely, who first began the open-air preaching at the Martyrs' Memorial, where Dr. Downer frequently joined him ; Bishop Heber of Calcutta, Provost Cotton of Worcester, Robert Aitken, and William

Hay Aitken, the well-known missionary, C. P. Golightly, at one time curate to Newman, but later one of his chief opponents, T. Valpy French, afterwards Bishop of Lahore, Lord Radstock, Bishop Chavasse, Bishop Knox, H. G. Grey, Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Dr. Griffith Thomas—his successor, Temple Gairdner of Cairo. In addition to these, many others who played a more or less important part in University life are mentioned. The closing chapters contain an account of Wycliffe Hall, the Oxford Pastorate, the O.I.C.C.U., and St. Peter's Hall. Dr. Downer's account of Oxford should appeal to a wide circle of readers.

THE MASTER. By the Rev. Guy H. King, A.K.C. *The Church Book Room.* 2s. 6d.

It is a fault of this modern age that the great majority of books are out of date within three months of publication, and forgotten within twelve. *The Master* is one of that small minority which may, with justice, be regarded as of permanent value in its statement of the Christian Faith. It is in every way a praiseworthy book, for here Mr. King succeeds in giving us a book in which not a word is wasted, while remaining very readable; a book which deals with the greatest Truths of our Faith without being beyond the understanding of the most humble Christian.

The Master consists of seven studies of our Lord, each dealing in a convincing manner with a different aspect of the Lord Jesus. For example in the study "Did He rise from the dead?" we have the whole question of the Resurrection considered from the historical, Biblical and Prayer Book points of view, the various critical theories are discussed, the evidence weighed, and the truth vindicated.

It is very heartening too, in these days of widespread unbelief, to find the Second Coming the subject of a careful study.

Churchmen will find in this book a help to their spiritual growth, a stimulant to their faith, and a constant reminder that our Redeemer is not only risen, but returning.

R. F. R. G.

JESUS SHALL REIGN. By Wm. H. Auret Pritchard. *Thynne.* 3s. 6d.

The author in his book gives a readable survey of the teaching of the Bible on the subject of prophecy, specially in relation to the Second Advent of our Lord. The book comes with a message for our time and is a real tonic for Christian people of to-day. The author takes the pre-millennium view of the coming of Christ, and is convinced that the signs of the times indicate the near approach of the end of this present age. The book has a running commentary on world movements up to our own times. The Bible student and Sunday School teacher will do well to read it. The reading of the book impresses the reader with the evidence of an over-ruling Providence directing events to the final scene when our Lord shall reign.

T. S.