

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

A CHATTY book of miscellaneous hints on public speaking and preaching by Mr. D. B. Knox is issued by Messrs. James Clarke & Co. as a *Handbook for Speakers and Preachers* (5s. net.). Special reference is drawn to the prevailing habit of inaudibility on the part of speakers and good advice is given on voice cultivation. Useful suggestions are made on a variety of subjects such as sermon making and sermon subjects. A selection of anecdotes suitable for various occasions and brief breezy paragraphs make up a book that will interest all who have to give addresses of any kind.

God's Iron is the title of a life of the Prophet Jeremiah by George Birmingham (Skeffington & Son, 2s. 6d.). The author is well known as a novelist, and his experience as a writer of imaginative works serves him well in depicting some of the aspects of Jeremiah's life and character. He has made the prophet a living personality playing an important part in the national and foreign politics of his time. As a native of the village of Anathoth, he was of a cowardly disposition, and shrank from the responsibilities which were placed upon him. He led a lonely life and was doomed to disappointment and failure. The invasion of Jerusalem brought calamity to the people, and Jeremiah became unpopular as the messenger of God, He suffered much and was cast into prison. Finally he goes with some of those who fled to Egypt and dies there, still proclaiming God's messages to those who would not hear him. The book is not written for scholars as specialists, but for general readers who are interested in the Hebrew prophets. They will get a vivid impression of the prophet from the author, who has consulted the writings of great Old Testament students, such as Dr. Skinner, Sir George Adam Smith, Dr. Driver and Professor Cheyne. It will be found a helpful book by those desiring to understand fully Jeremiah's writings.

Dr. Zwemer, who has returned from his long years of work in the Moslem mission field, has given the results of his extended experience in a book published by the Inter-Varsity Fellowship of University Unions, *Dynamic Christianity and the World To-day* (2s. 6d. net). The first portion of the book explains that dynamic Christianity centres in the unchanging message of the Cross. There can be no compromise on this. It is an absolute and not a relative condition, and there can be no admixture of comparative religions. The death of Christ holds the fundamental place in Christian teaching. If this is taken away Christianity is destroyed. This is a stumbling block to Islam. In the second part is a graphic description of the world to-day and of its need of the Gospel. Interesting details are given of the conditions prevailing in various countries, and of the progress of

Christian work among the people. Yet while much has been accomplished much remains to be done. There are yet many unoccupied regions. Dr. Zwemer makes a special appeal for work to be undertaken in them. "The heart of Asia is the greatest unevangelized region in the world." The great hindrance to advance is the indifference within the Church. The claims of the Mission Field are presented with a stimulating and inspiring force, and the facts presented in an attractive form.

Canon Peter Green's short life of Christ issued under the title *The Gospel Story* (Longmans Green & Co., 2s. 6d. net), although intended primarily for use in mission schools abroad can be used with advantage by general readers and by teachers who wish for brief but clear explanations of some of the questions that naturally arise in connection with the life of Christ. The general outline covers the period of our Lord's private ministry, and then goes on to give the characteristics of his public ministry in three clearly marked periods. Special attention is then given to the Passion, the words from the Cross, the Resurrection of our Lord and His appearances afterwards. He gives his reasons for his interpretations and although we may not agree with all his opinions, the whole tone and character of the book render it of special value for the purposes for which it was written.

A re-issue of Mr. Albert Close's *Rome's Attack on the British Empire and the United States of America* (Thynne & Co. Ltd., 2s. 6d. net) provides a very full statement covering the period from the time of the Reformation up to the present day of the attacks upon the Protestantism of this country especially on the part of the Jesuits. The information given will not be found in any other single volume and it forms a body of evidence on the machinations of Romanists against the welfare of England, and the Protestant succession of our Throne.

The Rev. R. J. E. Boggis, B.D., went *Down the Jordan in a Canoe* and has written an interesting account of his experiences (S.P.C.K., 6s. net). He also gives particulars of previous similar journeys with the accidents that befell those who undertook them. Some account is given of recent developments along the banks of the river and at the Dead Sea which will be of special interest to those who have visited the region in days before the present régime.

Those who have read the first book of Walter Miller, M.R.C.P., L.R.C., on Nigeria—*Reflections of a Pioneer*—will be glad to read his further account of that land in his new book *Yesterday and To-morrow in Northern Nigeria*. In the opening chapters he gives a number of pictures of the many changes which he experienced during his long residence in the country as a Medical Missionary of the C.M.S. He describes the life of the natives and the revolution that has been wrought in their condition by the rapid advance in the introduction of European inventions. In the later chapters he gives advice as to the future

developments and the right methods to be pursued both in missionary and administrative work. Mr. Miller has strong convictions which he does not hesitate to express and his long experience warrants attention being paid to his criticisms.

A selection of extracts from letters of some of the German Pastors who are imprisoned on account of their faith have been translated and issued under the title *I Was in Prison* (Student Christian Movement Press, 1s. net). Many thousands of the German edition were circulated before the booklet was confiscated by the police. It is a significant fact that the booklet was confiscated. The spirit shown by these Pastors must have been extremely inconvenient for those who had condemned them to their prisons. They show a brave spirit of Christian confidence and a power of endurance which is born of their faith in Christ and His cause.

Those who have to read the lessons in Church should read *How to Read the Bible Aloud* by the Rev. R. S. T. Haslehurst, B.D. (S.P.C.K., 4s. net). Sound practical advice is given and the points are illustrated in a way calculated to impress them on the mind. There is always room for improvement in the conducting of the services and Mr. Haslehurst gives many useful suggestions.

Cross and Swastika is an account of the Ordeal of the German Church by a Swiss writer, Dr. Arthur Frey. It is translated by J. Strathearn McNab, and there is an Introduction by Dr. Karl Barth, who says that the state of the Church in Germany cannot too often be brought before the people of other lands. Dr. Frey's exhaustive examination of the whole painful subject deserves careful study. (Student Christian Movement Press, 6s. net.)

The Student Christian Movement Press has issued an edition of Forbes Robinson's *Letters to His Friends* which were printed for private circulation many years ago. In this new edition these letters of deep spiritual interest will reach a wider circle of readers and those who were familiar with them in the past will be glad to recommend them to others, especially to students and those beginning their life work. (4s. 6d. net.)

New Testament Translations—A Correction.

The New Testament, translated by John Wesley, 3s. 6d., and *The Book of Books*, 2s. 6d., a translation of the New Testament by R. Mercer Wilson, were both described as publications of the Epworth Press. They are really publications of the Lutterworth Press, which belongs to the United Society for Christian Literature. *The Book of Books* was published to celebrate the centenary of the R.T.S. Paragraph Bible, as well as the fourth centenary of the English Bible in the parish churches.