

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

IN *Preface to Faith* (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 6s. net) Dr. Louis Arnauld Reid considers some of the fundamentals of the Christian faith from a philosophic point of view, and arrives at the conclusion that he must reject many things which those who accept the Christian tradition consider to be vital. He questions the divinity of Christ, the resurrection, the atonement as connected with the death of Christ, and yet he believes that he retains much that is profoundly valuable.

Essential Christianity by S. Angus, Professor of New Testament and Historical Theology, St. Andrew's College, University of Sydney (John Murray 6s. net), is a frank restatement of what the author regards as of the essence of Christianity. He denies the value of dogmatic tests. The essential factor is the Christ-like character. What divides is not of Christ, and disputable things are not essential. His demands are few and simple: "Purity of heart, loving service, active sympathy, obedience to the Highest Will, ceaseless concern about the inner light that it be not darkness, a balanced inwardness, the sifting sense of values, which drives a man to sell all that he has for the priceless pearl and to repudiate the kingdoms of this world and their glory at a price." We may question whether such a Christianity represents the teaching of the New Testament or would stand against the onslaughts of the enemies of faith.

An Anglican in Estonia by the Rev. H. R. Wilson Chamberlain of York Minster (S.P.C.K. 2s.) is an account of a visit of a party with Anglo-Catholic sympathies to the Orthodox Church in Estonia in order to make contact with the members of that Church and to give them some idea of our forms of worship. It is written in an interesting and chatty way giving particulars of the people they met and the monasteries in which they were accommodated. They left, however, a wrong impression of our worship in their "offering of the Holy Sacrifice" and presenting the "Western Mass" as a *missa cantata*. Mr. Wilson took with him in his care for the spiritual welfare of the party "a case containing altar vessels, linen, cross and candlesticks, wine, wafers, a set of reversible green and white vestments, and another set of cloth of gold." He was thus well equipped to give a service quite unlike that provided for in the Book of Common Prayer.

Jamaican Interlude, by George F. Timpson, with a Preface by Lord Oliver (Ed. J. Burrows & Co., 6s. net) is an account of the Emancipation of the Slaves in one of our oldest Colonies, and gives a

graphic picture of the part played by the Baptist ministers on behalf of the people. An interesting account is added of Jamaica as it is to-day.

The aeroplane accident which cut off the career of Bishop Guy Bullen in the Sudan in December, 1937, caused a great shock to all his friends. A life of great promise for the future of mission work in Africa was suddenly ended. Already he had left his mark on the Mission Field. During his time in Nigeria he had effected changes in Zana which had opened a new era for the work there. His devotion, his clear vision, his capacity for effective action, his personality which charmed all who met him, are all displayed in the memoir of him which has been brought out by "His Friends" (Church Missionary Society, 5s. net). His life is an inspiration to service for the Master.

Modern Illustrations of the Gospel, by P. C. Sands, M.A., is one of the S.P.C.K. series of Education Works (2s. net). It is intended for Teachers in Senior or Secondary Schools or Bible Classes, to meet the need of modern illustrations calculated to interest, attract and instruct those who desire to bring Bible lessons into touch with everyday life. Teachers will welcome the copious and well-arranged matter provided.

Our Faith, by Emil Brunner (Charles Scribner's Sons Ltd., 5s. net). This is a translation by Mr. John W. Rilling and is an exposition of Christian teaching intended to meet the needs of those who are thinking out the eternal message of our religion. It deals with thirty-five topics beginning with *Is There a God? Is the Bible the Word of God?*, and ending with *The Last Judgement and Eternal Life*. Professor Brunner's method of dealing with these various questions has an originality for English minds which renders it very suggestive of new lines of treatment in dealing with old problems.

Search the Scriptures is the sixth booklet of the Inter-Varsity Fellowship Bible Study Course of which the general editor is the Rev. G. T. Manley. (1s. net.) The Rev. A. M. Stibbs has drawn up a comprehensive series of outlines for daily reading which concludes the whole course which is intended to cover the three years of a Student's university life.