

Book Reviews

MAHATMA GANDHI :

Essays and Reflections on his Life and Work.
Presented to him on his Seventieth Birthday.

Edited by S. Radhakrishnan (George Allen & Unwin Ltd.)
7s. 6d.

This book, as the title indicates, is not a life of Gandhi, but a series of deeply interesting and instructive expositions of his philosophy of life, and evaluations of his spiritual and political significance to his own and future generations. The writers, for the most part, are outstanding men of letters, learning, religion and politics: sixty in number, representative of many countries and faiths, and presenting a cross section of the world's reaction to his message. Familiar names, such as General Smuts, Professor Einstein, George Lansbury, Gilbert Murray, Lawrence Binyon, Rufus Jones, Maud Royden, are to be found amongst them. Some contribute only a few lines of respect and congratulation.

The large majority, however, are thoughtfully written expositions of those aspects of his life and teachings which have most impressed each writer, the net result being to cause the interested reader to pass eagerly from essay to essay in expectation of some fresh food for thought from some fresh mind and pen. To a Christian reader with an open outlook, ready to probe to the roots all the implications of the Christian way of life, the book brings heights and depths of illumination, challenge and fundamental truth. A few of the contributions, sparkle with gems of spiritual and philosophic thought.

To the majority of writers, as to the general public, Gandhi's devotion to and use of *Ahimsa*, "non-violence," as the very heart of truth, "the central teaching of the Bible, as I have understood the Bible," is the theme of special interest. It is made clear that the meaning of *Ahimsa* is "not merely the negative virtue of abstaining from violence, but the positive one of doing good." It is the twentieth-century proclamation of the truth of that revolutionary

saying of Christ, in which are hidden the seeds of a new world order, "the meek shall inherit the earth." To Gandhi belongs the historical uniqueness of being the first to attempt the application of it as a national and political weapon. "It is the principle of the eternal Cross," writes J. S. Hoyland, "the principle which says with Paul, 'I fill up the sufferings of Christ' . . . Mr. Gandhi had had the genius to bring out into the open once more a world-principle which the selfishness, hot-water bottle luxury, the profit hunting of western civilization has obscured from our eyes. . . . Under the drive of an all-permeating spirit of competitive selfishness the Cross has in reality receded into the background, to become a mere dogma or instrument of purely individual and personal salvation. The great task of our generation is the rediscovery of the Cross as a living and eternal principle for the ending of wrong, warfare, violence. . . . God Himself works in this way, the way of non-violence, the way of the Cross."

All the writers testify to the transparent sincerity and genuineness of Gandhi's personal life as the embodiment of his own message to the world. As a young lawyer on a visit to South Africa, shamefully insulted as a result of the colour bar, Gandhi fought it out through a night till "the light dawned on his soul," and he knew he was "to go through to the bitter end, suffering what his own people had to suffer." Through the years he has trodden an undeviating pathway, embracing poverty, for "to be one with the poor and outcast is to be his equal in poverty and to cast oneself out": learning non-attachment "to be free to say or do the right, regardless of praise or blame." To-day, the revered leader of India's millions, destined perhaps to be regarded as her greatest saint since Buddha, he lives in a remote little village, dressed in his homespun khaddar and living on the plainest of diets.

Scattered through the various articles, are to be found many a wise word from his own lips ("spiritual aeronautics as one writer calls them) on such subjects as the use of silence, prayer and guidance, self-discipline, spiritual economics.

One problem, however, remains unhandled and one omission glaring from the point of view of evangelical readers. No mention is made of the Atonement as the funda-

mental basis of communion with God and a life in the Spirit. Many of the writers point to Gandhi in the words used by Maud Royden when she says, "The best Christian in the world to-day is a Hindu." But no writer, not even Bishop Azariah, of Dornakal, who is the one outstanding evangelical contributor, attempts to grapple with this contradiction in terms—a man who rejects the substitutionary work of our Lord on the Cross and yet appears to give many evidences of a life lived under the control of God's Spirit. Some, maybe, would refuse to admit the validity of such a spiritual experience. Others would prefer to agree with Gandhi's own words in an address to Christian missionaries, "If I have read the Bible correctly, I know many men . . . who have even rejected the official interpretation of Christianity, but would nevertheless, if Jesus came in our midst to-day, be probably owned by Him more than many of us." The parable of the Good Samaritan, Peter's words concerning Cornelius, Paul's statement in Rom. ii. 15, may have a bearing on this.

With this reservation, and making due allowance for the varied outlooks of the essayists and therefore of their contributions, this book will be found both instructive and illuminating.

N. P. GRUBB.

THE TYNDALE COMMEMORATION VOLUME

Edited by R. Mercer Wilson, M.A. (R.T.S.—Lutterworth Press) 7s. 6d.

Substantial parts of Tyndale's Revised Testament 1534, are admirably reproduced in this well-printed volume. In addition there is an account of the life of Tyndale by his Biographer, the Rev. J. F. Mozley, and an account of Tyndale's influence on English literature by the Rev. John R. Coates. Lovers of the Bible and of English Literature will delight to possess a copy.

The translator's spelling and paragraphing have been reproduced, as well as his marginal notes. The authorities of St. Paul's Cathedral have allowed the reproduction of woodcuts from the copy of the Revised New Testament of 1534, which is one of their prized possessions.

H. DROWN.

THE PRIEST AS STUDENT

by Various Writers. Edited by Herbert S. Cox, B.D., Ph.D.
pp. vi., 380. (S.P.C.K.) 8s. 6d. net.

This volume of Essays by twelve different writers deserves very special attention at the present time. For inevitably in great national crises there is a very real danger that the young priest will be attracted away from the more orthodox and less exciting studies towards topical subjects more popular in their appeal but ultimately disastrous to mental equipment and indirectly to ministerial efficiency. To any such tendency the book will provide a useful corrective.

At the outset one thing can at least be said of it, its aim is high. There is no pandering here to superficial learning. Throughout it makes an appeal to the consecrated intellect. The right note is struck in the very first Essay on "The Importance of Study." "Christian scholarship," the author of it says, "is at bottom neither more nor less than the solemn consecration of the mind to the service of God." The Essay deals realistically with some of the objections with which busy clergy at all times have tended to quiet their consciences whenever their studies have been neglected. For this reason it is to be commended to all candidates for Holy Orders. In this age of hurry and rush, with its ever-increasing demands on the time and energy of the parish clergy, opportunities for serious study seem almost impossible to some, and they take refuge in small books and the Church papers to the permanent detriment of their intellectual efficiency.

Following the introductory Essay comes a series of what may be termed introductions to the study of most of the subjects with which the clergy are presumed, however inadequately, to be acquainted. Thus to some extent the book covers much ground that should have been well traversed in the curriculum of the theological college—with one or two possible exceptions. Nevertheless, to some of the older clergy the volume might well come as a kind of "refresher course."

It is obviously quite impossible to refer to each Essay individually. No doubt some Essays will make a stronger appeal to a particular reader than others. Many will appreciate the very attractive Essay on "The Study of the Old

Testament," while others will enjoy some of the rather pungent *obiter dicta* to be found in the Essay on "The Study of Church History," without in the least necessarily endorsing them. Incidentally, we are interested to see that historians generally are waking up to acknowledge the "incurrible slovenliness" of Cardinal Gasquet, which is after all a mild and charitable description of numberless perverse intellectual delinquencies. The author of this Essay might read again the first clause of *Magna Carta*.

The book, taken as a whole, is open to one or two rather serious criticisms. We should have liked to have seen recorded the position in the ecclesiastical world of the various writers. There is no indication in most cases even of the Communion to which they belong, though presumably they are all Anglicans and of a very definite type of Churchmanship. In one or two cases the extreme high Anglican standpoint is assumed as being that of the Church of England without any possibility of doubt.

A more serious criticism is that some of the writers seem wholly out of touch with those for whom the work is primarily planned, i.e. the young parish priest. For no one who knows the limited opportunities of the average busy parson could design a Five-year Course of Spare Time Reading at the rate of one book a month and put down (actually for the third month of the third year) Lightfoot's *Apostolic Fathers*! The same criticism is to some extent applicable to the Editor's Syllabus on pp. 150-2. Such syllabuses can only be rather frightening to the young minister and in consequence disheartening. For however much these subjects may appeal to the writers, every effective minister to-day ought to be acquainted with quite a number of general subjects, including the best that is written about Missions. That all means time. In these respects therefore the volume tends to be unpractical.

However, it is a volume that needed writing, and if it acts as an incentive to the young minister to make himself efficient in at least one department of study in an age when intense practical activity is too often regarded as indicative of efficiency, then it will not have been written in vain.

THE FEAR OF HELL AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CONVERSION

by the Rev. Clement F. Rogers, M.A. (S.P.C.K.) 3s. 6d.

Professor Clement Rogers is well known for his open-air activities, and he tells us that a stock weapon in the hands of controversialists is to argue that hell-fire was the main argument used to enforce Christianity on the ignorant peoples of Europe. With great erudition and a wealth of quotation, together with many excellent reproductions of frescoes and carvings, he seeks to overthrow this contention. He covers a wide field, and calls to witness a great number of Christians, some illustrious, others more humble. It is doubtless true that many of the crudities of medievalism and of other ages leave us wondering that anyone could have been moved by them at any time. But it is not perhaps quite so clear that the notion of Hell in some form has not played a more important part than the Professor would have us believe. Readers must judge for themselves the force of his argument. We do not think he is quite fair to Scripture. The reason underlying the persistence of the doctrine of Hell is the sense of judgment, and of the absolute difference between right and wrong. Bernard Shaw is adduced: "In rejecting all this imagery we are apt to make the usual blunder of emptying the baby out with the bath. By all means dismiss the scenes painted by Tintoretto. But do not think that you have got rid of the idea of judgment to which all human lives must finally come, and without which life has no meaning."

H. DROWN.

THE DESCENT OF THE DOVE

by Charles Williams. (Longmans) 7s. 6d.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is associated with all the distinctively Christian claims on humanity and its ethical revaluations in human society. We believe implicitly that the Church is the community in which the Holy Spirit dwells but it is generally realized that we have not yet discovered the full meaning of this stupendous fact. We are sure that the Church is not static in its life and doctrine

and its intense vitality is the direct result of the working of the Holy Spirit in groups and individuals. When men are possessed by the Holy Spirit a new heart is fashioned within them and they are made partakers of the Divine nature. This is both the explanation and the power of all revival movements within the Christian Church which, in the words of Canon Barry is "God's act at each point of time. . . . It is continuous yet it is never finished—it is not a tradition merely but a growth, an adventure rather than an institution."

Mr. Charles Williams in the book under review, professes to give "A Short History of the Holy Spirit in the Church," but his achievement falls far short of what has been accomplished by theologians with a more accurate scholarship and a deeper spiritual insight. What he has accomplished is the continuance of a series of pseudo Christian books which he has written with the evident design of challenging the orthodox and startling the simple. In *The Descent of the Dove* he seems amongst other matters to favour the revival of some doubtful experiments in the polarization of the senses. Thus, in the chapter on "The Definition of Christendom" he laments, "the loss of a tradition whose departure left the Church rather over-aware of sex, when it might have been creating a polarity with which sex is only partly coincident."

The chapter on "Consummation and Schism" is concerned mainly with a close examination of the mediæval work called the Cloud of the Unknowing and the works of Dante. It is an interesting and illuminating study for the historian but we cannot commend it to those who are anxious in simple faith to live "in the spirit." In fact our main criticism of the book is that too much space is given to sex problems, the consideration of which is neither profitable to the student nor necessary for the average Christian. It must be admitted that it is cleverly written by a man who has an accurate knowledge of most of the ecclesiastical controversies throughout the ages. It is dedicated, "For the Companions of the Co-inherence," and we suggest that it be read by these people whoever they may be, and these alone!

J. W. AUGUR.

THE DOCTRINES OF MODERN JUDAISM CONSIDERED

by A. Lukyn Williams, D.D. pp. xii., 169. (S.P.C.K.) 5s. net.

In attempting to set before Christians, for whom this volume is more particularly intended, a clear statement as to the doctrines of modern Judaism, Dr. Lukyn Williams undertook a greatly needed task, for which he is peculiarly qualified. At the outset he had to face one or two special problems, in trying to place side by side Christian and Jewish belief. Judaism is divided between moderns as liberals, and orthodox. Equally the Christian Church is not at one in its belief and teaching. For the latter the author adopts the only possible course by writing of Christianity as he apprehends it. For the former he allows both views to appear, giving special attention to the liberal section of Judaism. Following very closely to a plan suggested in the Preface, he gives a careful and scholarly review of Judaism's conception of God as revealed in nature, in the Old Testament, in human personality and in the Messiah. Of more than usual interest is the chapter which deals with Jesus of Nazareth. Modern Jewish leaders are increasingly attracted by the character and teaching of Jesus though Judaism generally continues to ignore opportunities to read and study the records. Indeed, as the author points out, even careful study of the Old Testament is confined to a very few Jews. Naturally, by reason of the part which it occupies in Jewish doctrine, four chapters are concerned with the Torah which is to the Jew what the word "Jesus" is to the Christian. To assist the reader, the author gives a very helpful summary, setting out article by article the points on which Jew and Christian agree and those concerning which they are at variance. Not least valuable are the appendices on the arrangement of the Books of the Hebrew Bible: *Marinonides as the Messiah*, the *Incarnation (The Virgin Birth)*, and the *Atonement*. Appended too, for the student, is a fairly extensive bibliography, indicating the extent of Dr. Williams' own reading. He has, not for the first time, given to others besides students, a valuable and helpful book. All Christians must perforce be interested in Judaism. Judaism should be prepared to dispel some of its ignorance concerning the actual teachings of Christianity. This book would help them.

THE PARTNERSHIP OF NAZARETH

by the Rev. C. D. Hoste, M.A. (Longmans) 6s.

What an amazing number of books there are which essay to plumb the depths of Our Lord's personality. This attempt to do so deserves study. It is full of matter and requires close attention. Full value is given to the humanity of the Lord's nature. The author believes that the moment is ripe for a move forward towards a better understanding of the Incarnation. He develops his theme boldly but reverently in thirty-three chapters.

It is a sequel to another study, *The Achievement of Nazareth*, a book which received high commendation from many quarters.

H. DROWN.

THE BOOK OF AMOS

*explained by the Rev. T. H. Sutcliffe, M.A. (S.P.C.K.)
1s. Paper. 1s. 9d. Cloth.*

No one can fail to find help in this very lively exposition of the prophecy of Amos. Without endorsing everything that is contained in the Commentary we recommend the book as a fresh and interesting example of how to make an Old Testament's prophet's message clear and helpful to the modern reader. And the price places it within the reach of everyone.

H. DROWN.

THE MYSTERY OF THE FATE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

by the Rev. Cyril C. Dobson, M.A. (Williams & Norgate, Ltd.) 3s. 6d. net.

How many people have ever thought of the fate of the Ark of the Covenant? Perhaps some will be awakened to pursue the matter by this study of Mr. Dobson. His thesis is that the Ark was by far the most significant and valuable ornament of the Temple, and when Jerusalem was burnt in 584 B.C. it was not destroyed, nor was it carried to Babylon. Jeremiah secreted it, and it still exists—somewhere. Nehemiah knew something of its whereabouts, and his thoughts

were preoccupied with it when he took his famous midnight ride round part of the city of Jerusalem. Three traditions give Mr. Dobson his clues. (1) 2 Maccabees xi., 4. (2) A cryptogram or cypher in one of the writings of Jeremiah, which led to excavations being carried out by an expedition just prior to the Great War. (3) Irish records. Very interesting, but opinions may differ as to the cogency of the argument. The illustrations and maps are good.

H. DROWN.

RADIANT FREEDOM

The Story of Emma Pieczynska

by *Olive Wyon, R.T.S.* (*Lutterworth Press*) 3s. 6d. net.

This is the pathetic story of a life full of disappointments, and yet in spite of them, after an unhappy childhood, Emma Reichenbach developed into a great worker for the welfare of the people. She married a Polish Count, but her stay in Poland was short. She studied medicine, but was unable to finish her study. Afflicted with deafness she was shut out from much human intercourse, but she developed a deep religious experience and exerted an extensive influence upon the life of Swiss workers, "Cut off from so much of the outer world by her deafness, she turned all the more gladly to 'that inner world which opens to us if we seek it.' With failing sight and the constant menace of complete blindness, she turned her gaze towards the unseen, and contemplated with joy the Light of Eternal Reality."

REMINISCENCES OF COUNTRY LIFE

by *James George Cornish.* (*Country Life*) 10s. 6d.

Mr. Cornish was the son of a Suffolk Vicar, who took orders in 1892 and was later Rector of East Lockinge and Vicar of Sunningdale in Berkshire. He retired in 1919 to the family residence near Sidmouth and took an active interest in the local life. He was a keen student of natural history, an antiquarian and a sportsman devoted to shooting and fishing. His close contact with the conditions of various parts of England give a special charm to his account of the

life of all classes of the people. His graphic style enlivens his account of many of the interesting personalities with whom he came in contact. His practical work led him to take an active part in educational work, and in the changing agricultural conditions as they affected the workers.

The volume shows the country parson as a valuable contributor to the welfare of the people in the country districts.

THE FRAMEWORK OF FAITH

by Leslie Simmonds. (Longmans) 8s. 6d.

This is the first volume of a new series of which Canon Roger Lloyd is the General Editor. He is the able Canon Missioner of the Diocese of Winchester. He has planned "The Teaching of the Church Series" because he believes that so far as England is concerned the work of the parish churches is vital and crucial. We are convinced that he is right. He also says that every book in the series is intended no less for the Enrolling Member of the Mother's Union, the Scoutmaster of the Church Troop, the Day and Sunday School Teachers, than for their parish priest. The aim is to cover in these six volumes, at least in outline, the battleground on which the evangelist of to-day must fight.

Leslie Simmonds is Assistant Priest of All Saints, Margaret Street, London. We should expect very extreme Anglo-Catholic teaching from such an author. But Mr. Simmonds has declared his conviction in a recent paper that the secret of all right thinking is balance, and with a very few exceptions this is a singularly balanced and carefully thought out book. The "fixed points" of the Christian system are well stated. Nevertheless his attitude to the Bible leans to the Modern rather than the traditional Catholic position. He appears to accept the statement that man himself has evolved through an ape-like stage and is "only a monkey shaved" as W. S. Gilbert said. However, we have greatly enjoyed the book and have found it both helpful and stimulating, even though, as is natural, we are unable to agree with all the writer's statements. It is a very useful contribution to Evangelistic thought. We are not sure whether it will be really grasped by all the classes of lay workers to whom the Editor hopes to appeal. It is often

too profound and advanced in its thought. At the same time we recognize that even working men can understand a philosophical argument if it be stated in language which they can understand. It is one of the merits of the author that he writes easy, simple and clear English, and that many of his sentences are epigrams packed full of thought and understanding. This series meets a real need. It must help the Evangelistic witness and warfare of the Church. We commend this first volume to the earnest and careful attention of the Parochial clergy and their workers and join the Editor in his prayer that by God's grace bestowed upon readers and writers alike, the series may be of some real use to the Christian cause to-day.

A. W. PARSONS.

THE PSALMS FOR EVERY DAY

by *Jane T. Stoddart*. (Hodder & Stoughton) 10s. 6d. net.

There are many books designed to illustrate the Psalms, but Miss Jane Stoddart's will stand out as unique in the originality and character of the "thousand illustrations from life and literature," with which her book is enriched. She has drawn her material from the biography, fiction, belles-lettres and newspapers of our own day and she adds "I venture to hope that my collection, which is based entirely on personal reading and owes little to standard anthologies, may be helpful, not only to preachers but to all who love the Psalms." The Psalms are arranged in the daily order for Morning and Evening in the Prayer Book, and several illustrations are appended, so that the volume is an admirable companion for daily reading.

The illustrations on such a favourite Psalm as cxxi., to take one example, contain references to Jean Paul Richter, George Borrow, David Livingstone, Bishop Hannington, St. Columba's, Pont St., Ralph Connor, A Highland Lady, Bishop Knox, from whose *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian* a touching reference to his mother's prayers for him as a schoolboy is given; a sermon preached by Dr. Keller at the Jungfrauoch in July, 1938, the Hills of Wales; Helen Keller, a novel, *Burmese Silver*, and Sir Frank Fletcher's retirement from the Headmastership of Charterhouse School. This wide

range of selection which it is possible thus merely to indicate, serves to show the interest of the book and its suggestiveness.

As was to be expected in a book by Miss Stoddart there are excellent indexes. An Index of Psalm-Texts Illustrated and a General Index which gives the authors and the passages quoted from their writings.

IN THE BEGINNING

Compiled from the writings of the Rev. and Hon. W. E. Bowen (Hodder & Stoughton) 6s. net.

The Rev. and Hon. W. E. Bowen came into notice towards the end of the last century as a sturdy opponent of the excesses of the Anglo-Catholic School. His publications were among the chief revelations that led to the appointment of the Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline. In 1900 he retired to Totland Bay in the Isle of Wight, where he died in 1938. To this memorial volume compiled from his sermons, the Rev. E. G. Pace, of Durham University, contributes a brief account of his life, and gives a just estimate of his characteristics as a preacher. He was a careful and critical student, well versed in the classical work of literature and theology. He was well acquainted with the latest works of the philosophers and Scientists. His sermons were enriched by his quotations from and examinations of these great writers. He was at the same time a keen and ardent student of all that concerned the interpretation of the Bible, and his sermons indicate the soundness of his views on all subjects that came under his review. He was a whole-hearted supporter of the orthodox faith of the Church.

The sermons will appeal specially to educated people who wish to know the bearing of modern thought upon the old truths of our Faith.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED :

- THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. *Bishop Hensley Henson.*
Cambridge University Press. 7s. 6d.
- THE CHALLENGE OF CALAMITY. *S. Nowell-Rostron,*
M.A., B.D.
R.T.S.-Lutterworth Press. 7s. 6d.
- THE CONFLICT OF THE CROSS. *O. E. Burton.*
James Clark & Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d.
- THE NAZARENE. *Sholem Asch.*
George Routledge & Sons, Ltd. 8s. 6d.
- A LIVING FAITH. *Frederic C. Spurr.*
Messrs. Allenson & Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d.
- GANDHI'S CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY. *S. K. George.*
George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 3s. 6d.
- VISIT TO UTOPIA. *J. Howard Whitehouse.*
Oxford University Press. London. 2s.
- THE RISING WATERS. *Eric S. Loveday, M.A.*
S.P.C.K. 1s.
- THE HEREAFTER IN JEWISH *Charles Venn Pilcher,*
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT, with special reference to THE DOCTRINE *D.D.*
OF RESURRECTION.
S.P.C.K. 7s. 6d.
- THE POTTER'S WHEEL. *Canon J. O. Hannay.*
(Thoughts on the Ways of God
with men.)
Longmans, Green & Co. 3s. 6d.
- THE ENGLISH LITURGY, in the *W. K. Lowther Clarke,*
Light of the Bible. *D.D.*
S.P.C.K. Cloth, 2s. 6d. Paper 1s.
- FOLLOWING CHRIST. *W. R. Matthews*
(The Bishop of London's (Dean of St. Paul's).
Lent Book.)
Longmans, Green & Co. 2s. 6d.
- TORQUEMADA, SCOURGE OF *Thomas Hope*
THE JEWS. A biography.
George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 8s. 6d.