

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

IN five lectures delivered at one of the American Divinity Schools, Dr. Shirley Jackson Case dealt with the *Social Triumph of the Ancient Church* (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 6s. net). In the first lecture he shows the religious background of the heathen society into which the Christian preachers came with their message of Divine love and human brotherhood. In the second lecture on "Christianity and Worldly Goods" he goes on to show how the growth of Christianity brought about a new method of valuing earthly possessions. With the acquirement of property and the growth in wealth of the Christian community new problems arose. The third lecture on "Christianity and Social Prestige" shows how the members of the Church were placed in regard to their relationship to their non-Christian relatives and friends. The fourth lecture carries on the subject into the connection between "Christianity and Politics," and illustrates the attitude of the authorities of the Empire towards the Christian communities. The last lecture on "The Social Task of a Triumphant Church" brings out the necessity of applying the Christian method to the solution of the social problems of the world to-day. This shows that the power of the Church is weakened by disunion and inertia, and by the exaggerated individualism of the Protestant attitude of the past. The Church must, if its work is to be effective, take an active part in practical ways of helpful procedure in dealing with actual conditions. Dr. Case has told his story in a most interesting way, and with an extensive knowledge of all the relevant facts, so that he has no difficulty in applying apt illustrations.

Dr. Kenneth E. Kirk's *Bampton Lectures for 1928* on the "Vision of God: The Christian Doctrine of the Summum Bonum" has been issued in an abridged edition (Longmans, Green & Co., 7s. 6d. net). The omitted portions contained passages referring to the history of Penance. These were quite apart from the main subject of the book, so that the abridged edition is complete in itself, and traces out the various forms which the Vision of God has taken in different ages. Some of the phases dealt with are the Vision of God in Pre-Christian Thought, the view presented in the New Testament, the development of formalism, and the codification of Christian Morality, the Rigorism which developed in the Monastic System both in regard to discipline and doctrine. The eighth lecture deals with the "Law and Promise," and criticises the theories of Protestantism and Catholicism, with special emphasis on the defects of the former. The main thesis of the book is that worship is the mainspring of the moral life and is not simply a pleasant recreation for pious souls: it is the source of all true Christian Morality.

To meet the increasing demand for Sunday School lessons which will be at once Spiritual, Scriptural, and Evangelical in their teach-

ings, and at the same time constructed along the lines of modern Sunday School methods, the Church Book Room has issued a book of Sunday School Lessons for the Church's year on the Collects, illustrated from the Epistles and Gospels, by the Rev. Llewelyn E. L. Roberts, M.A., Vicar of St. Andrew's, Whitehall Park. From his extensive experience of Sunday School work, Mr. Roberts is able to make the most appropriate use of the wide range of material at his disposal. Each Sunday has its appropriate subject associated with the Collect for the day and illustrating one definite thought or lesson. Missionary illustrations have been used as often as possible to give a Missionary atmosphere to the teaching. The dominating thought throughout the lessons is to bring the child into a personal and saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Clergy and Sunday School Superintendents are recommended to examine these interesting Notes as they are so admirably suited for general use.

Canon H. T. Powell, D.D., publishes the dissertation which was accepted by the University of Durham for his Doctor's degree. He chose the difficult subject of *The Fall of Man* (S.P.C.K., 5s. net), and aims at giving an account of its place in modern thought. Dean Matthews contributes a Foreword in which he says that Dr. Powell has tackled a difficult subject with complete intellectual honesty, that he is not seeking to find reasons for preconceived conclusions, and is not concerned to rehabilitate ancient formulas. As a result Dr. Powell expresses some opinions that have not found general acceptance with theologians of the past, and probably many will not agree with his conclusions to-day. Yet the point of view which he puts forward has to be seriously considered, as many of the difficulties of the subject still remain. He examines the teaching of our Lord and concludes that it does not imply the truth of Original Sin. After a reference to the teaching of St. Paul, he considers the doctrine of the Fall in relation to the idea of God and the idea of Creation. He does not accept the theory of a disaster subverting God's plans, as that is incompatible with the idea of His imminence and with the view of Creation as a continuous evolution. The views of recent writers on the problem of Evil are considered. The last chapter is a re-statement considered and tested, and his conclusion is that the doctrine of the Fall based on premisses no longer to be admitted cannot be retained.

We are pleased to note a new edition of Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Turton's well-known work of Christian apologetics, *The Truth of Christianity* (Wells Gardner, Darton & Co., 2s.). It is not necessary to remind readers of the merits of a book which has reached its twelfth edition and has been translated into four languages. The careful sifting of the evidence, the cogency of the arguments, and the clarity of the style have made it well known as one of the standard works of its kind. It has been thoroughly revised for the new edition. Additional arguments have been introduced in the chapters

on "God's Character," "Revelation," "The Resurrection," and "The Creeds," while in his treatment of the Exodus and Jewish miracles the author has taken full account of the recent excavations in Jericho, Ras Shamra, etc. The publishers are to be congratulated on producing the book at an amazingly low price (2s. for a volume of 512 pages), and on thus rendering the book accessible to all who desire to acquaint themselves with the foundations of the Christian faith. It seems almost churlish to suggest any improvement; but would it not be possible in the next edition (and we are convinced that there will be a next edition) to provide a general index of subjects and of works of reference?

Those who are interested in the cinematograph as a potential means of evangelisation will welcome *The Cinema for Christ*, by R. G. Burnett (Religious Tract Society, 1s.). The author makes out a strong case for a wider use of the moving picture in presenting the message of Christ to the present generation, and gives us a vivid account of the progress made, especially in missions in industrial areas. The style is chatty and entertaining, and, if some of the statements are exaggerated or ill-informed, the reader will not find it difficult to forgive the author for allowing his enthusiasm to run away with him. The book contains much valuable information and advice on the different types of cinematograph apparatus available and on how to procure a regular supply of films which many should find useful. It is good to know that the supply of films suitable to evangelistic purposes is increasing, but we should have liked some assurance as to the quality of such films. If the Church is to make her appeal through the screen, the films shown must be not one whit inferior to those shown in the cinema next door. The general public is critical; and if the Church were to exhibit films which fell far short of those shown outside much harm might be done.

The appearance of a new introduction to the study of the Old Testament is always an event of interest to Biblical students. In recent times there have been several smaller books on the subject, and now the Rev. W. O. E. Oesterley, D.D., and the Rev. Theodore H. Robinson, D.D., have collaborated in producing *An Introduction to the Books of The Old Testament* (S.P.C.K., 10s. 6d. net) which is designed to be "A mean between the exhaustive work of Driver, and the necessarily restricted volumes, for example, of Gray or McFadyen." The authors have already worked together in producing their volume on the "Hebrew Religion." They have given special attention to the historical background of the books, and have emphasised the importance of the Septuagint and the poetical form of some of the prophetic books. Their general point of view is so generally known that it is not necessary to refer to it at length. The book will no doubt find a place in the curriculum of Theological Colleges and Divinity Schools, and students will be taught the modern view of the construction of the Pentateuch with the minute analyses of its detailed sections that is now cus-

tomary. There is a general introduction to the prophetic literature explaining its various forms, and special attention is paid to the historical background of each book without which the full significance of the writer's message cannot be grasped. A threefold authorship is assigned to Isaiah. The last section, of ten chapters, is probably the most valuable portion of the book, and is devoted to the Prophets. Students will be glad of the opportunity of making use of the results of recent research as set out in this volume and to compare them with the earlier views maintained by the older school.

Dr. Orchard since his reception into the Church of Rome has continued his literary activity and is naturally using his powers as a writer in support of his new-found Faith. His latest work is *The Way of Simplicity* (Putnam, 5s. net), which he describes as "A Guide for the Perplexed." This is a seductive sub-title in days when so many are troubled with doubts and questionings and when the Church of Rome is set out by its members as furnishing the one sure retreat for the distressed. There are naturally portions of this book that Protestants can read with agreement, but when we come to the "Catholic" way, we seem to see that simplicity is lost. We are told, for example, that "in all Catholic Churches the Sacrament is reserved, which means that Christ's presence is there, not merely a spiritual presence, but in some sense as He was present in the days of His flesh. There is no doubt that this sacramental presence makes it easier to realise His spiritual presence everywhere, and within our hearts." There is little simplicity about a presence that is more than spiritual in the reserved sacrament, and it is not easy to understand in what a sacramental presence consists or how it can be different from any other kind of presence. Such additions to the Christian faith, so far from simplifying it, only make it more difficult and probably in the end tend to produce that loosening of all belief that is so noticeable in countries where the Roman Catholic Church is predominant.

Anglo-Catholicism, by the Rev. F. G. Llewellyn, B.D. (Protestant Truth Society, 1s.), gives a review of the development of Anglo-Catholicism during the last hundred years and sets out the distinctive characteristics of its teaching, showing its divergence from the doctrine of the Church of England since the days of the Reformation. Those who are interested in maintaining the Reformation principles of the Church will find it a store-house of useful information.

Thynne & Co., Ltd., issue *The Pathway of Light, or, How God Enfolds and Unfolds the Mysteries of Creation*, by C. D. Jennings (2s. net). The subject of the book is described as "Divine revealing, as distinct from that which the mind of man has power to unravel, and especially of that which concerns man's origin and destiny." It is a series of spiritual meditations on the Creation and on man's place in it in relation to God.

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

WINE OFFICE COURT, LONDON, E.C.4.

Book Racks.—A new Book Rack has been designed for pamphlets, parish magazines, etc., to be placed in the Church porch or parish hall. The Rack is in polished or unpolished oak. It is substantially made and fitted with a strong money-box with lock and key. Its size is 24 × 20 × 8 in., and it has been specially designed to show the maximum number of pamphlets to the best advantage. The Rack can be obtained from the Book Room at 21s., or with a hundred assorted Manuals at 26s. (carriage and packing, 2s. 6d.).

Sunday School Prizes.—A list of Sunday School Prizes has been posted to clerical members of the League.

A special feature this year is the publication of two Certificates of Merit drawn from a special design. They are published at 3d. and 6d. each. We have had many inquiries for a not too expensive card of this kind in past years, and we feel sure that those we have been able to publish will be found most attractive.

An excellent series of sixpenny tracing and painting books have been published by Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons, and are on sale in the Book Room. They contain sixteen pages of black and white pictures, sixteen pages of tracing paper, and picture cover back and front. The paper is especially good and substantial and the pictures can be both traced and painted. There are four books in this series. Another sixpenny painting book, also published by Messrs. Raphael Tuck, contains six pages of coloured pictures and six pages of outline. There are eight books in this series, animals, birds and flowers.

St. John's Gospel.—Dr. Gilbert's little book, *The Miracles in St. John's Gospel and their Teaching on Eternal Life*, has been issued in a paper cover at 6d. (post 2d.). We hope that it will have a large circulation in this form. It contains the substance of a series of lectures given at Oxford under the auspices of the Oxford Diocesan Church Tutorial Classes. They open up in a simple, straightforward way a subject of which too many are, no doubt, wholly unaware: they invite discussion and question, and above all they stimulate the desire to pursue the study of the subject deeper and further.

Registers.—In addition to the Confirmation Register for names and addresses of candidates (8 × 12 in.) which was published a short time ago by the Book Room in two sizes, 5s. for a hundred names, 7s. 6d. for a thousand names, we have now published a Register of Services the same size containing sixty ruled pages at 7s. 6d. (post 6d.). The Registers are bound in cloth with red basil on the spine and corners.

Family Prayers.—We would like to draw attention to the Rev. A. F. Thornhill's *Family Prayers*, originally published in the English Church Manuals Series. Price 2d. This little manual aims at providing a simple form of prayer for busy households. The services are brief and broken up into separate acts or parts of worship, such as confession, praise, thanksgiving, prayer, or intercession. The pamphlet has had a very large circulation in the past and is still in great demand.

A third edition has also been published of another little book of Family Prayers entitled *About the Feet of God*, by Canon Price Devereux, price 3d. This little book contains prayers for a week. All the collects are short and simple and many of them are from the Book of Common Prayer. The booklet has been specially prepared as an outline of daily devotion for use in the home or in the school.

The Church Book Room also published early last year a volume of Prayers entitled *Ask What I Shall Give Thee*, price 2s. 6d. (post 3d.), compiled by the Rev. T. S. Hall, B.D. The prayers are for morning and evening for four weeks, and are mainly a selection of prayers, ancient and modern, arranged after the manner of the Lord's Prayer for family and personal use. They have been selected with much care and prayer, and are not meant to supersede but rather to supplement private devotions. The Archbishop of Armagh states in a Foreword: "In this little book are brought together, and ordered for our use in the way our Lord has taught us, the words in which the deepest longings of human hearts have found expression in their seeking after God. All the centuries of spiritual experience speak in these words. I thank the compiler for his labour of love."

Sunday Schools.—Miss Dorothy M. Graves's excellent little book entitled *Boys Together: A Study in the Lives of Jesus Christ, John the Baptist and St. Paul* (1s.) was specially mentioned and recommended at the Sunday School Exhibition held at Dean Wace House in November last. It contains eight excellent reproductions of photographs taken by the author in Palestine, and is intended for the help of young Sunday School teachers and young people who are witnessing for Jesus Christ, many of whom have limited time for Bible reading and study. It is through the "eye-gate," as well as the "ear-gate," that the work of Bible teaching must be done, and children are usually interested in the children who live "over the sea," and the fact that Bible lands and customs are in many respects as they were in New and even Old Testament days makes the picturing of the Bible background not so difficult as some may suppose.

We also recommend the Rev. Ll. E. L. Roberts's *Sunday School Lessons on the Collects*, which is published at 1s. 6d. (post 2d.). *The English Churchman* says of it: "A very welcome addition to the list of Sunday School Lesson Books, and one which will satisfy a long-felt need. The Collects form a very important part of the rich liturgical wealth which the Church of England provides for her members. Mr. Roberts's treatment of their contents is scriptural, spiritual and practical, with many suitable anecdotal illustrations. Each Collect has its particular aim indicated, and the treatment consists of Introduction, Presentation and Application, with suggestions for Expression work."

We are glad to announce that Sunday Gospel stamps in connection with this Lesson Book have been prepared, price 6d. a set of fifty-two stamps for the year. Albums are supplied at 1d.

The Transfiguration.—Canon J. B. Lancelot has just published through the Church Book Room a little manual entitled *The Transfiguration*. It is divided into seven chapters: Introductory, The Purpose—the Site—the Company, The Event, Moses and Elijah, "Good for us to be Here," The Cloud—the Voice—the Bidding, The Return—Conclusion. It is obtainable at 1s. 6d. (postage 2d.).