

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

THE NEW TESTAMENT. Translated by John Wesley : with an Introduction by the late Prof. George C. Cell. London, 1938 : *Epworth Press.* 3s. 6d.

THE BOOK OF BOOKS : the New Testament complete and unabridged. Edited by the Rev. R. Mercer Wilson. London, 1938 : *Epworth Press.* 2s. 6d.

It was fitting that in a year which witnessed the second centenary of John Wesley's conversion and the fourth centenary of the order for placing the English Bible in our English Parish Churches, some memorial of both events should be issued by the R.T.S., now known as the United Society for Christian Literature, through its agency, the Epworth Press. Better or more suitable memorials could hardly have been chosen. Outside the Methodist Churches, the number of persons who knew that John Wesley had gone to the immense labour of translating the New Testament, and that his translation had many excellent qualities, based on a better Greek text than was available in 1611, must have been comparatively small. One reason must be that his modern biographers for the most part make no reference to it. It is a good thing, however, that this interesting work should be made accessible in so convenient a form.

The Book of Books is a presentation of the New Testament in paragraph form with the object of making it more attractive and more easy to read with interest and understanding. It is excellently printed on slightly toned paper in a good clear type, and certainly is very pleasant to handle and to read. The headings which are supplied are a useful assistance to the reader and are generally sufficient, without being too numerous. The text is a moderate revision of that of the Authorized Version. Here and there, there are changes which seem unnecessary, but they are few, and on the whole it is remarkably well done. We congratulate the editor, the Rev. R. Mercer Wilson, and his helpers on this result of their very considerable labour. It should induce many people, especially young people, to read the New Testament with the same ease as they read any other book unencumbered with verse and chapter divisions on every page. The price, 2s. 6d., is very small for a book produced so well as this is, and should make a large circulation possible.

W. G. J.

THE COURAGE TO BE REAL. By Geoffrey Allen. *Maclehose.* 5s.

This is a volume of independent essays by the author of *Tell John*, which he wrote in conjunction with Roy McKay, and, *He That Cometh*, in both of which Mr. Allen aimed at relating the Message of Jesus to Present Day religion. These were followed by *Christ the Victorious*. Formerly Fellow and Chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford, Mr. Allen is now lecturer in theology at the Union Theological College, Canton.

Of this post he writes : " I am indebted as I write to the Church Missionary Society, which has placed me in a field so rich in new needs and interests and openings." He offers the royalties on this book to the Centenary Endowment Fund of the Diocese of Hong Kong. He believes that in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we find the courage to be real. So he writes of Grace and Truth, the Kingdom, Growth, Fear, the Love of Money, the Crowd, Evangelism, Missions and last of all, of God. And from this last chapter let us quote one of the many challenging sentences in this book : " The radical cure for war is contained in the phrase : ' I believe in one God.' " This book has been born out of the experience of a real Christian. You will not agree with him always but he has the courage to be real.

A. W. PARSONS.

EXPOSITORY STUDIES IN ST. JOHN'S MIRACLES. By T. Torrance, F.R.G.S. *James Clarke*. 5s.

We have witnessed recently in all the churches a marked return to the expository preaching of the Bible. A few years ago, under the influence of destructive criticism, preachers were almost afraid to expound the Scriptures lest they should unwittingly say something unscholarly. We are now beginning to see that the book is alive when it is expounded by those who are spiritually in harmony with its teachings. It is " spiritually discerned." We welcome any volume, therefore, which expounds the Scriptures and we are particularly glad when it deals with the miraculous. John's " Signs " are amongst the most important passages in the Four Gospels. Mr. Torrance believes that all these " Signs " exhibit the fullness of grace and truth in Jesus. He finds that these mighty works wrought at Jerusalem follow the sequence of the Jewish yearly feasts. Ten of our Lord's miracles are expounded in simple straightforward language. Many clergy and Bible class leaders will be grateful for these illuminating expositions.

A. W. PARSONS.

WITH JESUS IN PALESTINE. By The Rev. A. J. Macdonald, D.D. *Skeffington*. 3s. 6d.

A prince among preachers once said that three principles, *docere*, *placere*, and *movere*, should guide the preacher in the preparation of his sermon. All three are evident in the twenty sermons published by the Rector of St. Dunstan-in-the-West under the title, *With Jesus in Palestine*. Throughout the entire series Christ's teaching is related to present day problems in a most convincing manner. Dr. Macdonald repeatedly " puts his finger on the spot." The contentious spirit of those who criticized Christ in forgiving the sins of the paralytic is seen as reproduced in those where " Confusion of mind and contrariness of spirit are often the attitude of the clever people of this world toward the divine claims of Jesus " (p. 94). Self-righteousness and pride are in those who view God as " a mere factor in the problem of philosophy." By such, says the author, " He is not sought as an inspiration to life, but as a solution to the intellectual problem of the universe. Mental peace, not spiritual peace, is what the humanist seeks " (p. 100).

The fire and zeal of the prophet is perceptible in the sermon, "New wine and old bottles." The topics treated cover a wide field, including, "Mental Healing," "The Function of the Church," "The Anger of Christ," and "The Sabbath." Dr. Macdonald's style is smooth and direct. Never once does he cast his eye towards the gallery. He sets an example that many might profitably follow in that he never stoops to the use of "slang." Clergy and laity alike will profit by a careful perusal of these instructive, pleasing and moving addresses. E. H.

THE JEW AND HIS NEIGHBOUR. By James Parkes, M.A., D.Phil. S.C.M. 3s. 6d.

The present time is certainly ripe for a re-issue of Dr. Parkes' book *The Jew and His Neighbour*. The book was first published in October 1930. This present edition has been brought up to date and published at a cheaper rate. Dr. Parkes has mainly confined himself to "the historical side of the Jewish question" (p. 27), tracing anti-semitism to its different sources and marking its course through the centuries. In his introduction, Dr. Parkes issues a warning and an explanation. "If it be said that I have spent most of my argument upon exonerating the Jew, and that I have shown him distinct partiality in my treatment, I can only reply that where there is much hostility fairness must often appear to be partiality. I have become convinced that the roots of the question lie in history and not in the unalterable characteristics of the Jew" (p. 8).

The book opens with a study of "The Jewish Dispersion," and "The Nature of the Jewish Problem." Then, the religious, economic, political and racial elements of anti-Semitism are discussed. The concluding chapters deal with "The Inner Evolution of the Jewish Community," and "The Effect upon the Jew of His Position in Society." The last chapter sums up Dr. Parkes' conclusions, which are most helpful in studying this most difficult problem. The author has been fearless in his treatment of the subject and deserves the thanks of all. Some may think that the case has been overstated. Yet whether one agrees or disagrees with the main thesis, the careful reader will be glad to have the opportunity of studying the conclusions of one who has given both time and thought to the subject. E. H.

THE SAYINGS OF CHRIST. By J. W. Mackail, O.M. Longmans. 4s. 6d.

This collection of Christ's sayings was first published in 1894. A revised and enlarged edition appeared in 1917 which had a wide circulation among the troops then serving abroad. It has now been judged opportune to reprint that second edition with a view to meeting present day needs.

Included in the collection is to be found a number of extra-canonical sayings of the Lord recovered from Egypt, also that splendid sentence preserved in St. Paul's charge to the Ephesian Elders.

The sayings have been grouped according to subject, no attempt having been made to preserve chronological order. A foreword says

that "the wording of the Authorized English version has been slightly varied where clearness was to be gained by doing so" (pp. 5-6). Some of these variations are most interesting. One appears on p. 67, taken from St. Luke 17. "Which of you, having a servant . . . does he thank that servant because he has done what he was told? I fancy not. So likewise you, when you shall have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have only done our duty.'" It is to be noted that Dr. Mackail retains the short sentence which the R.V. omits.

There can be little doubt that the book will meet the needs of some people. E. H.

THE PRECIOUS JEWEL OF THE WORD. By the Rev. W. A. Rice, with a Foreword by Mr. F. H. Chance. *Marshall, Morgan & Scott.* 2s.

This is a popularly written account of the way in which the English Bible has come to us. It will be of special service to those who have not time to read longer books but who would like a brief historical sketch of the subject, and will make a good introduction for those who desire to proceed to a more detailed study. One of the features of the book which will appeal to its readers is the number of testimonies from leaders of opinion, writers, politicians, etc., to the value of the Bible, which are scattered throughout its pages. As a gift to Sunday School teachers and parochial workers it is to be very cordially commended, for it cannot but encourage the wider reading of Scripture, and is therefore most timely in this present year, the 400th anniversary of the setting up of the English Bible in the parish churches of this country. W. G. J.

THE PRAYERS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL. By John A. Bain, M.A., D.D. *The Lutterworth Press.* 2s. 6d. net.

To all earnest students of the New Testament the prayers of St. Paul have presented a subject not only of interest as representing the character and thought of the Apostle but also as containing much of spiritual and devotional value. They have often been the subject of consideration, but Dr. Bain's book will be valued as a fresh and stimulating study that gives an insight into St. Paul's religion and theology. The opening chapters explain the character of St. Paul's prayer, to whom it was addressed and the elements of adoration and thanksgiving which form so large a part of them. Each of the prayers is then considered in detail and its special characteristics considered. It would be impossible to deal with every aspect of them, but some of their features are indicated in their subjects as for example—for unity, for love, for holiness, for comfort, for hope, and for peace. The prayers of St. Paul are a suitable subject for a course of sermons or Bible class instruction, and Dr. Bain's treatment of them may well provide a useful basis for study.

CHRIST AND PRAYER. By C. F. Andrews. *Student Christian Movement Press.* 3s. 6d. net.

Mr. Andrews has been visiting various Universities and Colleges in different parts of the world and has been addressing the students on the subject of Prayer. The present volume represents "the outcome of many quiet talks and retreats combined with personal interviews in different parts of the world." The addresses are admirably adapted for the instruction of those for whom they are intended and will help them in the pressure of the external conditions to which Mr. Andrews refers. He follows a well-beaten path, beginning with Christ as the Teacher, the nature of prayer, the place of faith, and the two great branches of intercession and thanksgiving, but he illuminates each portion out of his own deep experience and reveals the great realities of prayer for those who have followed Christ's guidance. As he says of his earlier chapters, "I have written them out of the sense of joy and freedom which came to me when I found at last how clear and direct Christ's teaching is, if we are ready to follow it, and how light and easy is His yoke." He thus discovered how possible it was to pour out his heart in devotion to God in a way that brought him back in spirit to the first joy of those days that followed his conversion when his whole life was filled with light and peace. Those who absorb the spirit of intense earnestness which inspires these thoughts on prayer will, we are sure, be able to share in the joyful experiences which they present.

PSYCHOLOGY AND MODERN LIFE. By Cyril H. Valentine. *S.C.M. Press.* 1s. 6d.

In his Preface to these four lunch-hour talks originally given in the Church of St. Edmund the King, Lombard Street, the author expresses the hope "that serious students of psychology may be deterred from reading what was never intended for their reception." Yet at the same time he hopes "that busy people who travel in trains may be able to read these pages with ease and recognize the voice of one who, like themselves, finds the going none too smooth." The topics here treated are very important. He deals with the troubles of Mr. Baulked-Ambition, Mr. Quickly-Hurt, and Miss Prudence Much-Afraid, whilst the third chapter deals with certain aspects of marriage. The impression not seldom left in one's mind after reading quite a number of psychological studies is that men and women act so much like mere machines instead of free individuals. So much is this the case that one might easily become hopelessly depressed. The last of these studies leaves no such impression and is the most characteristically Christian of them all.

E. H.

WHY BELIEVE? By A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. *Inter-Varsity Fellowship.* 1s.

The man with genuine religious doubts is one to be respected, and Dr. Rendle Short is quite the man to present the Christian position to him. This small volume of Christian evidences is a most suitable

book to put into the hand of the pre-occupied man, having been written for the Sporting Man, the Revolutionary and the Philosopher of the University Common-Room. It covers familiar ground in an arresting and up-to-date manner. Yet Dr. Short is aware of the difficulties of awakening souls to their need of God. On p. 102 he faces up to it: "The demand that God shall advance on us such proofs as will dragoon our minds, and make it intellectually impossible for us to do other than believe, is sheer impertinence." The way to faith is well presented. We are indebted to Dr. Short for this presentation of the truth, but he would make us more so, if he would present the position with equal force to those who cloke their moral problems under a guise of intellectual difficulties.

E. H.

THE VISION OF CHRIST. By George Cowan, A.R.I.B.A. *Allenson.*

5s.

Apocalyptic writings have always presented problems. There can be little doubt that these "Tracts for bad times," as they have been called, had direct messages for the ages in which they were written, but their somewhat veiled utterances are not always clear to us. In his book, *The Vision of Christ*, Mr. George Cowan, who obviously is a layman, has given us a careful and suggestive study of the Revelation. It is useless to presume that this study will satisfy all the varied views regarding the Apocalypse, yet it must command the attention of those who are interested in the subject. The author plainly upholds the Johannine authorship of the Revelation and connects it with the Fourth Gospel. At the same time he does not shrink from a re-arrangement of the text, suggested in an "Addendum" at the close of the work, on p. 253. He puts aside the Historic, the Praeteristic, and the Futurist interpretations of the book in favour of a Symbolic interpretation, and on pp. 25, 26 gives his interpretation of the symbols used in the book. Much is made of the first verse of the Revelation, and the suggestion is offered that God gave the revelation to Christ during the forty days in the wilderness, and that in turn, Christ related the revelation to St. John. In this connection a difference is seen between the Revelation and the book Daniel. "The prophets beheld their visions as spectators of a drama, but the Central Figure here is the Revealer Himself; we are transported to a rarer atmosphere" (p. 42). After the first five chapters which are largely devoted to a study of the Person of Christ, the Revelation is examined in detail. For this purpose the book is divided into eight parts and studied accordingly. The book reveals careful and detailed study, and makes a real contribution to the study of the Apocalypse. A misprint in the Greek quoted on p. 84 should be corrected in any subsequent issue.

E.H.

THOUGHTS ON WORSHIP AND PRAYER. By Edward G. Selwyn, D.D.,
Dean of Winchester. Pp. viii + 113. *S.P.C.K.* 3s. 6d. net.

The Dean of Winchester is at his best in these lectures delivered at the Vacation Term for Biblical Study in August last year. The title of the lectures, "Communion with God in the worship of the

community and of the individual," while more adequately describing the contents of this volume, was probably considered too lengthy to be retained. The introductory lecture discusses the relationship of Communion and Worship and emphasizes the special place and need of worship in a materialistic and secular age. It proposes for the following lectures consideration of three characteristics of worship, based upon the pleas that worship, resting on revelation, is dogmatic; mediated through fellowship with Christ, is Christocentric; finding its highest expression in fellowship with the brethren, is corporate.

The three succeeding chapters, with these three postulators as their basis, reveal an understanding and a devotion which charm the reader even while his convictions reject what the Dean would instil. There is much that is valuable and helpful on public and private worship and prayer, written with sincerity and with restrained power. Evangelicals will join issue at many points with the Dean, but will take from the book thoughts and suggestions that will promote a deeper devotion and a more acceptable worship.

WILLIAM GRANT BROUGHTON: BISHOP OF AUSTRALIA. By F. T. Whittington, LL.B. Pp. xiv + 300. *Angus & Robertson, Ltd., Sydney.* 7s. 6d. net.

It is a remarkable fact that hitherto no one has attempted the task of writing the life of one who occupies a unique place in the history of the Church in Australia. The Ven. F. T. Whittington, Archdeacon Emeritus of Hobart, Tasmania, was well qualified to supply the lack. He had already written of other Australian bishops. The time, too, was appropriate. Last year Australia celebrated the centenary of the founding of its first episcopal see, the passing of the Continent from the status of an archdeaconry of the diocese of Calcutta to the dignity of a see state.

On the whole, Archdeacon Whittington has done his work effectively. Here and there it is made obvious that his sympathies lie with the originators of the Oxford Movement and their successors. Bishop Broughton was himself of that particular school though not an extremist. His choice of men for work in Australia was influenced in that direction. It must have been a bitter blow to him when two of his chosen clergy perverted to the Roman Catholic Church. Yet the Bishop, himself, was a determined opponent of the Roman Church. One of the great battles which he waged in Australia was in opposition to what he considered unwarranted intrusion into Australia of Roman Catholic Bishops bearing local titles.

The figure which the Archdeacon paints of Australia's first bishop is decidedly attractive. He exhibits him as a man of deep piety and of tireless energy. He shows the reader a man gifted as an administrator, with extended vision and with a very high estimate of episcopal position and power. All his gifts he placed unsparingly at the service of the Church in Australia. How well he laid the foundations for future developments the reader of this book will easily appreciate. His work upon a proposed constitution form a valuable basis for future efforts in the same direction.

His life was full, but all too short. Yet it was sufficiently long to produce fruit which continues to this day, which remembers with grateful thanksgiving Bishop Broughton.

PROBLEMS OF FAITH AND CONDUCT. By Rev. W. S. Hooton, M.A., B.D. *The Inter-Varsity Fellowship.* 1s.

This is one of the little books which we cordially welcome. Of late a number of books have been issued which deal with various aspects of the life of discipleship and suggest answers to problems which the faithful encounter on their pilgrimage. In this book the author discusses from the Evangelical standpoint such problems as are suggested by the words which follow: "Guidance," "Gospel," "Prayer," "Criticism," "Prophecy," "Advent," "Controversy," and the limits of "Co-operation." It is all very helpful. It is an important little book.

A. W. P.

THE CHRISTIAN'S CLAIM ABOUT JESUS OF NAZARETH. By Clement F. Rogers, M.A. *S.P.C.K.* 2s.

Professor Clement Rogers has re-written, enlarged, and brought up to date a little book published some years ago. He provides an abundance of evidential material in the brief compass of 128 pages, and at a cost of only 2s. Not only does he marshal strong arguments, but he puts the reader on the track of other learned writers, for all his contentions are supported by references and apt quotations. The book is well produced and has a good index. A very useful manual.

H. D.

SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS. By D. T. Niles. *S.C.M.* 2s.

Mr. Niles is a young Tamil at present engaged in evangelistic work in Ceylon. His earnestness is as commendable as his grip of the missionary situation and of the English language. How the viewpoints of a Church which is so gravely compromised by Anglo-Catholic developments as the Anglican Church in Ceylon, and of the other Churches at work in that Island are to be harmonized is a problem. Mr. Niles holds that the key to the situation is Evangelism. There is much food for thought in his book.

H. D.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. By C. E. Hudson and M. B. Reckitt. *George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.* 7s. 6d.

The perplexities of the ancient world about such matters as Property, Industry, Wages and Pacifism (to mention only a few) seem to have been as harassing as they are to-day. An abundance of material is here provided for those who are unable to undertake original research, but who yet desire to trace the influence of the Christian tradition upon the life of the people. Quotations from authoritative writers are given at length, and the connecting links by the Editors give coherence to the whole. This very useful compilation, which deals with a difficult and obscure period, is to be followed by a further volume which will carry the story down to modern times. Students of Christian Sociology will be grateful for the material thus placed at their disposal.

H. D.