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## NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THE name of Toyohiko Kagawa is well known in missionary circles in this country, both through the record of his work in the slums of Japan and through his visits to this country when some of us had the privilege of meeting him. Several of his books have been translated into English and have found a wide circle of readers in English-speaking countries. A volume of poems from his pen has been translated, or interpreted as the English exponent phrases it, and is issued under the title *Songs from the Slums* (Student Christian Movement Press, 2s. 6d. net). They were mostly written during his residence in an appalling slum. They are "poignant revelations of the ghastly conditions prevailing there and of the spirit of the man who voluntarily endured them in order to serve the people." The poems may lose something of their literary quality in the translation, but nevertheless they convey sufficient of the spirit of their writer and of the terrible surroundings in which they were written. Admirers of Kagawa and his work owe a debt to Lois J. Erickson for admitting them to a fresh insight into the soul of this great Japanese Christian leader. They range from the depths of sadness produced by the sights around him to the height of joy in the message of Christ for even the most degraded people. A short account of Kagawa's conversion and his first acquaintance with the Christian faith are given, which serve to add to the impressiveness of his literary work.

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For some thirty years the Bishop of London has secured from some eminent preacher a book suitable for Lent reading. It has occurred to someone to select one chapter from ten of these works and to issue them in one volume as specially suitable for Lenten study. They are issued under the title *Religion in Life* (Longmans, Green & Co., 3s. 6d. net). The Bishop of London commends the selection in a Foreword, and suggests that it may lead to the re-reading of some of the books that have been found helpful in past years. The chapters chosen are well arranged and deal for the most part with the great fundamental aspects of the Christian Life. It is only possible and it is probably sufficient to give the names of the authors and to indicate their subjects. The Rev. W. P. McCormick on "A Right Idea of God"; Bishop Brent on "The Groundwork of God's Character"; the Rev. G. A. Studdert Kennedy on "The Word became Flesh"; Bishop Woodward on "What think Ye of Christ?"; Miss Evelyn Underhill on "Crucified"; the Rev. G. F. Holden on "The Approach of the Holy Ghost"; Archbishop W. Temple on "The Primary Need—Conversion"; Dean Inge on "Self-Consecration"; Rev. W. H. Elliott on "A Defence of Credulity" and Bishop H. H. Montgomery on "Easter Morning." We have found the re-reading of some of these passages refreshing and inspiring.

A warm welcome will be given to the reprint at a cheaper price of Canon Peter Green's *The Problem of Right Conduct* (Longmans, Green & Co., 3s. 6d. net). When it first appeared in the year 1931 it achieved a wide circulation as many felt that this was just the book for which they had been seeking in order to set out the bearing of Christian teaching on some of the practical problems of life, especially those which were the subject of thought among the younger generation. The book is called *A Text Book of Christian Ethics* and Canon Green makes clear the very definite use he makes of the term "Christian Ethics." There are numerous books on Ethics, but they are not written with a clear and definite Christian background. He seeks to answer the questions, "What do you mean by right and wrong?" and, "Why may I not do as I choose?" and these lead back to first principles. These must be Christian throughout, and must present a complete system, showing the basis of Ethics, the principles deducible from the basis and the application of those principles under special conditions. Conduct cannot be dissociated from belief. Such truths as Incarnation, Atonement, Regeneration, Conversion and Sanctification must affect ethical theory, and the value of Canon Green's study is that it shows the bearing of them upon conduct. The main fact is that man is a spiritual being and all his actions must be governed by that fact. The practical application is one of the most useful and interesting portions of the work, which form an excellent guide for the study of both young and old.

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The Rev. Bernard Clements was recently appointed Vicar of All Saints', Margaret Street, London, by the Bishop of London. The nature of the teaching given in this Church is indicated by a book called *The Precepts of The Church* which the Vicar has just issued (Longmans, Green & Co., 2s. 6d. net). The first precept is to be present at Mass on Sundays, and the greater Holy days, and here, as in several other places, reference is made to the requirements of the Church of Rome as if they represented the true standard. The third precept is to go to Confession at least once a year, and instructions are given as to the way to make a Confession. The fourth precept is to fast in Lent and to eat no meat on Fridays. This is said to be required by Canon law. The fifth precept is to uphold the Church's marriage law, and here, again, the Roman Church with its useful Decree of Nullity is set up as a standard. The sixth precept is to give regularly to the support of the Church and Ministry, and its comparative importance may be judged by the fact that about thirty-four lines are devoted to it. The last section is devoted to a plea for the use of the Hail Mary, and we are told that it should be accompanied by a genuflection or a bowing of the head. St. Louis of France, we are told, said it fifty times each evening, and knelt down and stood up each time. St. Margaret of Hungary recited it on certain days a thousand times with a thousand prostrations. We can only feel that their time might have been more usefully employed, and that

such methods of devotion seem to be in line with the praying wheel of the native of Tibet.

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Anglo-Catholics are ceaseless in their propaganda activities in all directions. Public School religion has been a favourite subject of their animadversions for a considerable time past. Two writers now come into the open with a demand for *The Catholic Faith in Public Schools* (Williams & Norgate, Ltd., 4s. net). The authors are the Revs. F. G. Baring and G. J. Ince, who claim to have some acquaintance with Public School life. They are backed by the Bishop of Bradford, who writes a Foreword, and Dr. Hubert Box, who contributes a Preface. The Bishop thinks that the teaching in the Public Schools is not dogmatic enough, and that the Chapel services lack the appeal of mystery and beauty which he thinks a more sacramental worship would give. We are not surprised that he lays the blame partly on the homes, for the great majority of parents do not desire their children to be brought up in an Anglo-Catholic atmosphere any more than in what the Bishop has described more than once offensively as "flat-faced undenominationalism." The authors pay a tribute to the zeal of Evangelicals in making the religious life of the boys in their schools effective, but their desire is to introduce into the larger Public Schools auricular Confession under the guise of what they call "The Sacrament of Penance." They inform us that in a Roman Catholic School this is part of the normal religious life, but it cannot at the present time be said of Church of England Schools. We hope that it will never be possible to say it of such Schools, knowing as we do the weakening effect of such Confession on moral character. They also wish the introduction of the Mass, but we believe it will be a long time also until this hope has any likelihood of being realised.

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The Bishop of London's Lent book this year is *O Men of God* and is written by an American clergyman, Canon B. Iddings Bell, of Providence, U.S.A. (Longmans, Green & Co., 2s. 6d. net). In his preface the Bishop of London says that the writer goes straight to the point "if man is only a clever animal, then religion goes by the board . . . if it is true that the 'successful man' is naturally that one that makes the best of this world and is able to amass wealth and comfort and have a good time. If it is not, and man is a 'praying animal' and born for higher things, then the so-called 'successful man' is the worst failure possible, however rich he may be."

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*Worship and Intercession*, by Ruth Hardy (Longmans, Green & Co., 3s. 6d. net), is written by a busy doctor in the Mission Field, and is preceded by a Foreword from the Bishop of Bradford. Apart from the advanced Churchmanship represented, there is much earnest and sincere devotional writing which some may find helpful.

## CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

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

**Church and State.**—Bishop Knox has written an admirable little pamphlet on the recently issued Report on Church and State entitled *The Cry for Freedom*, which suggests as a policy for Evangelicals that they should do all in their power to prevent the submission of the proposals of the Report to Parliament, as it is impossible to foresee what disastrous effects might attend the demand for severance between Church and State. *The Cry for Freedom* is published by the Church Book Room, price 2d.

The Report of the Archbishops' Commission on the Relation between Church and State should be studied, together with the Evidence. It is issued in two volumes, price 10s.

We would again recommend the following books and pamphlets for study on this subject: *Establishment in England*, by Sir Lewis Dibdin, D.C.L. (7s. 6d.); *The Nation and the Nation's Worship* (1s.), and *Disestablishment and the Prayer Book* (6d.), by the Bishop of Norwich; *The Christian Church and the Christian State*, by Robert Stokes, with a Foreword by the Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas Inskip (6d.); *A Christian State* (6d.), articles reprinted from *The Times*, with a preface by Sir Lewis Dibdin, D.C.L.; and *Whither the Church?* by Captain W. A. Powell (6d.).

**Holy Week.**—A course of seven addresses entitled *The Significance of the Cross*, by the Rev. Edwin Hirst, Vicar of St. Paul, Stockport, will be found valuable for use in Holy Week. It contains a concise history of the doctrine of the Atonement. For Good Friday we would remind our clerical readers of *A Form of Service for the Three Hours on Good Friday*, arranged by the Rev. T. W. Gilbert, D.D., and published by the Church Book Room at 2d. or 12s. per hundred. In connection with this Dr. Gilbert has also written a series of addresses, *Some Great Truths about Redemption*, entitled *Seven Times He Spake* (6d.). The two can be sent for 9d. post free. Another series of addresses entitled *The Seven Words from the Cross*, by the Rev. H. Browning (6d.), is also published by the Church Book Room.

**New Pamphlets.**—The following have been issued in the "Church and Life Series" (Church Book Room, 2d. each): *The Evangelical as a Churchman*, by Canon Dyson Hague, D.D.; *The Priesthood of the Laity*, by Canon A. W. Parsons; *The Practice of Confession in the Church of England*, by Prebendary H. W. Hinde, M.A.; and a fourth on Gambling, entitled *Tips and Tipsters*, by Canon H. Frazer, is now in the press.

**Young People's Services.**—A new edition has been called for of the *Four Forms of Young People's Services*, with Prayers for Special Occasions, arranged by the Rev. R. Bren, M.A., Vicar of Leyton. These have been found exceedingly useful, as will be seen from the fact that the booklet is now in its nineteenth thousand. The price is 3d. or 18s. per 100.

**The Life and Work of John Wycliffe.**—"If I have been able, in the writing of this new edition of Wycliffe, to stir anyone to stand up for Christ and the Truth," so Canon Dyson Hague expresses his aim and hope. And the book is so sound, so well informed, so loyal to Reformation truth and to

Bible truth, that his aim and hope will be fulfilled in those who read it." The foregoing paragraph is an extract from the review of the book which appeared in the *Expository Times*. Another reviewer says, "This book has been pronounced, by many of those who read it before publication, to be the best of Dr. Dyson Hague's works." Yet another notice states, "This is a volume to be commended without reservation, and we bespeak for it the widest circulation." The price is 3s. 6d.

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**Nails Well Fastened.**—This collection of passages from God's Word was compiled by an experienced missionary in India with a view to giving elementary instruction to those who have just emerged from heathenism. They have already been translated into many languages, and are now reissued in English as a suitable basis for elementary instruction at home, or for translation into the vernacular of any mission field. The booklet (2d.) is divided into the following sections, among others: Who and What is our God?; God's Dealings with Men; Jesus the Saviour from Sin; Who is the Lord Jesus?; The Christian Life; The Way to Victory. The Book Room has copies on sale, and suggests that in addition to the purpose named above, the booklet could be used by Christian workers when visiting in hospital or home.

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**The Revised Version.**—Bishop Ellicott's *Addresses on the Revised Version of Holy Scripture* were reissued in view of the Jubilee of the Revised Version in 1935. The Addresses give the early and later history of the Revision, the character of the work and the public use of the Version. Appendices contain illuminating extracts from the writings of Westcott and Lightfoot. The price is 1s.

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**The Gospel of Grace.**—The Islington Conference Papers for this year have been published under this title, and can be obtained for 1s. 6d. from the Book Room.

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