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A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

Short Notices.

Voices and Silences. By H. D. M. Spence, D.D., Dean of Gloucester. Pp. 314. Price 3s. 6d. Isbister and Co.

THE eloquent and popular Dean of Gloucester has here put together twenty-one of the most important of his sermons; some of them evidential, some doctrinal, and some on striking events and occasions. The volume takes its title from the first sermon, which was preached before the University of Oxford. It is a moderate protest against the hasty conclusions of the newer criticism, and had already appeared in *THE CHURCHMAN*. The Dean is constantly on the watch for fresh evidence on the questions of the Old Testament, and brings some weighty points forward in the sermon called "New Light." In the sermon on "Inspiration" he insists on the fact of varying degrees of this quality in the sacred writings. In a discourse on the Book of Genesis he emphasizes the view that Moses collated ancient documents, purging the old histories of their false, impure, and idolatrous elements. In the discourse on Epistles and Revelation he says, "The Books of the New Testament have, during the last forty years, been subjected to a criticism the most searching and scientific which during the eighteen Christian centuries has yet been put in motion. And the result has been incalculably to strengthen our faith in these books. Their genuineness has been found to be literally impregnable." The sermons on the Gospel of St. John continue the examination of the higher criticism.

A pastorate eminently wise, successful and blessed, is summed up in "the last sermon in St. Pancras." The sermon on the Queen's Jubilee brings forward the thought that England's greatness depends upon her religious homes.

The whole volume is characterized by wisdom, moderation, affectionateness, knowledge of character and of the world, and a wide acquaintance with literature.

Christ and Scepticism. By S. A. ALEXANDER. Pp. 308. Price 3s. 6d. Isbister and Co.

The writer at an early age was chosen Reader of the Temple, and is becoming one of the best-known preachers in London. His sermons are always thoughtful, and they have the literary tone and taste of one who has lived several years as a tutor at Oxford. Mr. Alexander writes from much the same point of view as the late eminent Master of the Temple, Dr. Vaughan, that which is known as liberal-evangelical; or, may we say, the true Churchmanship of the Church of England.

In the first sermon, that on "Christ and Scepticism," the position is thus defined: "The Christian apologist ought to have more patience in the present, and a better and more tranquil hope for the future, than he sometimes shows. The age is not, after all, we discover, so sublimely wise as some of us have fancied. Nor need we suppose that wisdom has been born with us, or that we have reached the apex of Truth. Neither criticism nor science has yet said the last word on religion. There are still more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in the philosophy of the nineteenth century. There is no occasion, therefore, for clamorous alarm at the sight of every doubt suggested, or difficulty proposed. Far better to exercise a quiet confidence; to make an intelligent and sympathetic study of the problems of the day, and to remember that truth, and truth only, must be the object of our search."

Many true and fertile thoughts and much pleasant writing in an

admirable style will be found in this volume. Among the topics are: "Criticism and the Bible," "The Spirit of Christianity," "Christianity and Art," "Christianity and Asceticism," "The Christian Ideal," "The Future of Christianity," "The Paradox of Christ," "Man's Place in the World," "Rational and Irrational Scepticism," "Limits of Revelation," and "Necessary Belief and Evidence."

The Pledges of His Love. By the Rev. H. C. G. MOULE. Pp. 145. Price 1s. Seeley and Co.

This is a devotional companion to Mr. Moule's Manual for Young Communicants. He is probably the most accurate and careful theologian of the day, and every word that he writes is most strictly weighed. The whole work breathes the very essence of English Church theology. As he himself says, his object is to avoid excessive mysticism on the one hand, and careless superficiality on the other. Such works as this ought to have an enormous circulation amongst Churchmen at the present time, in wholesome counteraction to the numerous mediæval handbooks which are endeavouring to bring back pre-Reformation standards and feelings.

Catechisms for the Young. First Series. Teachings from the Life and Ministry of our Lord. By JOHN PALMER. Church Sunday-School Institute. Pp. 368. Price 2s.

Mothers are often at a loss for useful handbooks in beginning to teach their children religious subjects. Mr. Palmer's experiences as the honoured and invaluable secretary of the Sunday-School Institute gives him special fitness for such a work; and the Catechism on the Life of our Lord makes us hope that it will be speedily followed by others of the series.

The Cambridge Companion to the Bible. Pp. 412. C. J. Clay and Sons.

This admirable and comprehensive work may be safely commended, and comprises in small compass a wonderful amount of information. The print is very small, but not much would need to be read at one time. Amongst the contents are papers on the Structure of the Bible; the Limits and Growth of the Bible, including the history of the Canon of the Old and New Testaments; an account of the Apocrypha and other Apocryphal books, and an appendix on Sacred Books of other Faiths; the Preservation and Translation of the Bible with regard to Text, Manuscript, Versions, Translations, and the History of the English Bible. In the introductions to the several books, the Bishop of Worcester writes on the Hexateuch, Prof. Lumby on the Historical Books, the Master of St. John's on the Poetical Books, Prof. Davidson on the Prophetical Books, Prof. Ryle on the Apocrypha, and the Rev. J. O. F. Murray on the New Testament. The series of papers on Bible History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Natural History are all admirable performances. There is also a glossary, an index of proper names, an index of subjects, concordance, maps, and geographical index. Amongst the writers are also Bishop Westcott, Dr. Sinker, Dr. Moulton, Prof. Robertson-Smith, Prof. Stanton, Prof. Armitage Robinson, Prof. Gwatkin, Prof. Bonney, Prof. Skeat, Prof. Ryle, the Rev. J. J. Lias, and other men of first-rate learning. The work, in fact, represents the flower of cautious Biblical scholarship in Cambridge.

Verba Verbi Dei. Pp. 200. Price 4s. 6d. Longmans.

This is a well-arranged harmony of the words of our Lord, on a scheme as far as possible chronological, and not according to topics. It will be valued as a help to devotion.

Parochial Self-Government in Rural Districts. Second edition. By H. C. STEPHENS, M.P. Pp. 370. Price 1s. Longmans.

This useful handbook contains an account and review of the growth and working of the different authorities by which the country districts are governed. Mr. Stephens is strongly against the election of Parish Councils for a fixed period, and prefers the old system of open-meeting. What he desires is, one rating, one area, direct self-management by the ratepayers, with Parish Committees acting during the consent of the inhabitants, and decentralization by County Councils. There are interesting chapters on the parish in its relation to public health, to highways, to education, to charity property, and to allotments.

Mediæval Music. By ROBERT CHARLES HOPE. Pp. 181. Elliot Stock.

Mr. Hope writes as a learned antiquarian and musician. He has studied deeply the music of the Greeks and of the East, subjects which he thinks have not been properly understood. He gives an account of the Pythagorean systems, of Ptolemy's improvement, and of the influence of Gregory the Great. While admitting that Gregorian music had its proper place, he protests against the attempts to re-introduce the crude chants of the Middle Ages, quoting Mendelssohn, Sir F. Gore-Ouseley, Sir George Macfarren, Dr. Dykes, Dr. Samuel Wesley, and Prof. John Hullah. The volume will be a useful study to all church musicians.

The Ascent of Faith. By ALEXANDER JAMES HARRISON, B.D. Pp. 302. Price 6s. Hodder and Stoughton.

This volume contains the Boyle Lectures of 1892-93, and the subject is "The Grounds of Certainty in Science and Religion." Mr. Harrison is so well known as a thoughtful and able lecturer in apologetics, that the reader will be prepared for a powerful grasp of the subjects treated. Mr. Harrison faces the most profound and difficult problems with calmness and courage. His attitude to the opponent of Christianity is fair and dispassionate. Many will find in these admirable pages the vague reasons which they have had for their cherished beliefs arranged in orderly progress, and with increasing concentration. Many who have carelessly imagined that there is little to be said for religious belief, will here find cogent reasons for reconsidering their positions.

Canonical and Uncanonical Gospels. By W. E. BARNES, D.D. Pp. 112. Price 3s. 6d. Longmans.

This is a popular sketch of the early history of Christian literature, inspired and uncanonical. It is an answer to the question, "Why do we accept our four Gospels?" Mr. Barnes exhibits them at the close of the second century, in the writings of Theophilus of Antioch, Clement of Alexandria, and Irenæus of Lyons. He then discusses the important evidence of Tatian, 160-180 A.D.; that of Justin Martyr, about 150 A.D.; Hermas, 140-150 A.D.; and Papias about the same time. The gospel story is traced in the great Apostolic Fathers, Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, and Barnabas, as well as in the four great Epistles of St. Paul. The book concludes with chapters on the uncanonical gospels, the uncanonical sayings of our Lord, and the recent Petrine fragment.

The Twelve Minor Prophets. By ORELLI. Translated by the Rev. T. S. BANKS. Pp. 405. Price 10s. 6d. T. and T. Clark.

Dr. Orelli's critical and scholarly exposition of the twelve minor prophets has been well translated. The chief object of the work is to exhibit the meaning of the prophet himself. It is a welcome addition to English theological libraries.

MAGAZINES.

We have received the following (July) magazines :

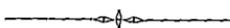
The Thinker, The Expository Times, The Religious Review of Reviews, The Review of the Churches, The Anglican Church Magazine, The Church Missionary Intelligencer, The National Church, The Foreign Church Chronicle, The Evangelical Churchman, The Gospel Magazine, The Church Sunday-School Magazine, Blackwood, The Cornhill, Sunday Magazine, The Fireside, Cassell's Family Magazine, The Quiver, Good Words, The Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Girl's Own Paper, The Boy's Own Paper, Light and Truth, The Church Worker, The Church Monthly, The Church Missionary Gleaner, The Philanthropist, Light in the Home, Awake, India's Women, Parish Magazine, New and Old, The Dawn of Day, The Bible Society's Gleanings for the Young, The Bible Society's Monthly Reporter, The Gottager and Artisan, Friendly Greetings, Little Folks, The Child's Pictorial, The Children's World, Our Little Dots and The Boy's and Girl's Companion.

The Summer Number of *The Boy's Own Paper* is full of adventure, natural history, anecdote, and mechanical suggestions, which must give abundant satisfaction to its readers.

Mignonette is the Summer Number of *The Girl's Own Paper*, and has a number of charming papers and illustrations. Among the writers are Archdeacon Wynne, Lady William Lennox, Sarah Doudney, and Helen Burnside.

The Philanthropist is a useful guide for those interested in the work of our numerous charities. It has a "special appeal" number for the London season.

Messrs. Nisbet have brought out a sketch of Bishop Smith, of Victoria, in their "C.M.S. Workers" series (price 2d.); and the R.T.S. a capital 1d. Biography of Norman Macleod.



THE MONTH.

AT the eighty-third annual meeting of the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the National Church, the annual report, which was on the whole of a satisfactory character, stated that during the year the accommodation in Church schools had increased from 2,684,991 to 2,693,841; the average attendance had risen from 1,716,877 to 1,806,207; the number on registers from 2,226,536 to 2,666,756; and the voluntary subscriptions for school maintenance from £613,572 to £617,878. The total voluntary expenditure of Churchmen on schools and colleges since the National Society was founded in 1811 amounted to more than £37,000,000, and of that sum more than £22,000,000 had been expended since 1870. The total amount of the grants for schools and colleges voted during the year was rather more than £18,000, a sum exceeding by 50 per cent. the whole income of the society from subscriptions, donations, and offertories during the year. The total sales in the depot during the past year amounted to £49,837, being £1,772 in excess of those for the previous year.

At the recent sitting of the Convocation of York, in the Upper House, on the motion of the Bishop of Sodor and Man, seconded by the Bishop of Wakefield, a resolution was unanimously carried in favour of the introduction into the Patronage Bill of provisions prohibiting the sales of advowsons by public auction.

The Upper House unanimously agreed also, on the motion of the Bishop of Sodor and Man, that purchasers of advowsons appendant