

Reviews of Books.

THE SURVIVAL OF JESUS. A Priest's Study in Divine Telepathy, by John Huntley Skrine, D.D. London: *Constable and Co.* Price 5s. net.

This is a thoughtful but unsatisfactory book. Dr. Skrine believes that the so-called science of telepathy or thought-transference is going "to make all things new in theology" (p. 48), and he has written this book to prove it. He propounds his theory by means of imaginary conversations, sometimes with his own mother and sometimes with a brother clergyman.

It must be said at the outset that there are many passages in this volume which are good and helpful and might have been uttered at a Keswick Convention. For instance, the application of the appearances of the Risen Lord to the individual disciples of to-day is beautiful. The chapter on the "Priest" is sane and helpful. So is the reiteration that Christ is "the life." But when we come to examine the distinctive theories advanced, we feel that they are inadequate. For instance, let us test the Author's view as to (i) the Divinity, (ii) the Atonement and (iii) the Resurrection of our Lord.

(i) Dr. Skrine lays great emphasis on the "Continued Humanity" of Christ and does not deny His Divinity. He says: "In confessing Christ to be the Son of God, I declare my belief that Jesus alone of all men before or since lived a life unto God which was a perfect life" (p. 188). Jesus is "as God to us," because "He is able now to give life unto *all* men. In that is His Godhead" (p. 190). Such a view of the Deity of our Lord seems inadequate, because it ignores the *pre-existence* of our Lord. It was not a *Man* Who by perfect life attained to Godhead, but eternal *God* Who took flesh and tabernacled among men (John i. 14; Rom. viii. 3).

(ii) Dr. Skrine's theory of the Atonement, though good as far as it goes, is defective, because it categorically denies the *vicarious* aspect of our Lord's sacrifice. "Christ," we are told, "did not save His disciples' souls . . . by an expiation wrought through vicarious sacrifice on the bitter tree . . . but by letting His life be lived before them where the breath and the beat of it would vibrate on their spirits and provoke a life like itself to waken and live in them" (p. 68). "Jesus takes sin away by giving life. Sin is the failure of life" (p. 58). This life is conveyed to men by a faith-transference or a telepathy of spirit.

(iii) The Author applies his theory of telepathy also to the appearances of our Lord after the Crucifixion. He does not believe in the "Physical Resurrection," yet he asserts that Christ "did show Himself alive after His Passion." How then did He show Himself? We are assured by Dr. Skrine that it was by means; of *telepathy*! This is really another form of Keims' "telegram-from-heaven theory," which the late Prof. A. B. Bruce, in his *Apologetics*, pp. 392-4, has successfully refuted. This theory tampers with the Gospel narratives, does not account for the empty grave, charges all the Apostles and the disciples who had seen the Risen Lord, and conversed with Him, as weak-minded simpletons who could not distinguish between an apparition and a reality! It has the further disadvantage of claiming for telepathy powers which all the experiments of sober men have failed to warrant.

With due respect to the Author's sincerity of purpose, and with genuine appreciation of the spiritual tone which characterizes his book, we are bound to say that his theory of telepathy is by no means convincing, and that his explanation of the Divinity, the Atonement and the Resurrection of our Lord is defective.

THE APOCALYPSE OF BARUCH. By the Rev. Canon R. H. Charles, D.D., and THE ASSUMPTION OF MOSES, translated by the Rev. W. J. Ferrar, M.A. London: S.P.C.K. Price 2s. 6d.

Another volume of the Translations of Early Documents. This *Apocalypse*, which is distinct from the *Book of Baruch* in our official Apocrypha, was originally written in Hebrew some time between the years 70 and 100 A.D. The Hebrew was translated into Greek and the Greek into Syriac. The volume before us is a rendering of the Syriac. As a document of the first century of our era it is of great importance for the light it throws on the Jewish ideas of the Messiah, the Resurrection body, sin, free-will and works. Dr. Oesterley supplies an excellent introduction.

Of the *Assumption* only one MS. is known and that in Latin. The text is corrupt and defective. Still as an early first century document it is valuable. As in Hebrews viii. 6, Moses is called the "mediator" of God's Covenant.

THE SACRIFICE OF THANKFULNESS. By the late Dr. H. M. Gwatkin. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Price 4s. 6d. net.

The present reviewer has the misfortune to have received his University education at Oxford, and therefore his personal knowledge of the late Professor Gwatkin has been confined to a reading of his books, to the traditional story of the four Triposes and the four senses, and to certain anecdotes of Dr. Gwatkin's mannerisms as a lecturer brought over to Oxford by Cambridge men. It was therefore a real pleasure to read the all too short memoir by Mr. T. R. Glover, prefixed to this volume of twenty-seven sermons which has been edited by Mrs. Gwatkin. On the sermons themselves it is not necessary to say much. Their nature can be readily divined by remembrance of the earlier volume called *The Eye for Spiritual Things*. The memoir only extends to sixteen pages—partly because its subject apparently did not keep a diary, and partly because a teacher's life is comparatively uneventful. Let us select for quotation a few lines from an undated letter to a Newnham student:—

"There is more revelation in life than in our thoughts; more teaching in the sober round of duty than in all our prayers." As regards teaching, the main points are thorough preparation—not of details, but of essentials, and unlimited patience—not to explain the difficulties, but to make your pupils find their way for themselves. They will do it, if you have patience to clear just the right points and no more. Keep your outline clear and formal, but let your method be as conversational as you can. . . . If you are not yourself a sermon, you will not make one."

THE RELIGION AND THEOLOGY OF PAUL. By W. Morgan, D.D. The Kerr Lectures, 1914-15. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The Author remarks in his Preface that "during the last fifteen or twenty years much has been done to elucidate the Pauline theology, and the chief outcome of the most recent work has undoubtedly been the discovery that Hellenistic religion and religious philosophy were vital factors in its formation." His aim is said to be to "give a systematic account of the Apostle's religion and theology in the light of modern research." The Author accepts all the nominally Pauline epistles as genuine except Ephesians and the Pastorals. There is no critical chapter, but we are rather surprised to meet with the incidental remark (p. 199) that one of the main reasons for doubting the genuineness of Ephesians is the extreme prominence therein of the idea

of the Church as a whole. It is a pleasure to notice that the Author has not swallowed all that has been written recently on St. Paul and Hellenism. Thus in the chapter (Book II, 6) on the "Church and Sacraments" he rejects the theory that the invocation of Jesus' name in Baptism was meant to act as a spell on the analogy of the Cults; and at the end of his discussion he writes, "At the present time the tendency is to read into Paul the crudest sacramentarianism. The sacraments are declared to be for him the Christian 'mysteries,' through which the Christian salvation is mediated. . . . It is a significant fact that while he frequently speaks of the Gospel as a mystery, he nowhere uses the term where we should most expect to find it—in connexion with the sacraments."

On the other hand, it may be pointed out, there are a great many statements which will give a mild shock to the older fashioned students of St. Paul. Thus the title *κύριος* as applied to Christ is said to be borrowed, not from the Old Testament, but from Serapis worship (p. 47). Again, the views of Paul about the flesh being the seat of sin are surely stated in an exaggerated and one-sided way. Again one wonders how for the Primitive Church "Forgiveness and Salvation were grounded not in Jesus' atoning death, but in the authority and power belonging to Him as Messiah and Lord" (p. 78), and yet for Paul "always it is with the death of Christ that the idea of atonement is connected" (p. 91).

On the whole, then, it may be said that the book is a comprehensive and careful study of Paulinism in the light of recent research; and though the reader will probably find much with which he will disagree, yet his reading will be altogether for profit, and fresh light will have been shed upon a subject of never-ceasing interest.

NO BISHOP, NO CHURCH. "Anglo-Catholic Claims Examined." Three Historical Essays by the Rev. J. R. Cohu, M.A. (Rector of Aston Clinton, Bucks, sometime Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford). *The Church Book Room*, 82, Victoria Street, S.W. Price 6d.

The intention of the writer of this pamphlet of forty-eight pages is to correct the errors of the Anglo-Catholics with regard to the theory of the ministry which they propound. He proceeds to examine their utterances in the light of the best available English theological thought as represented by Lightfoot, Hatch, Hart, Westcott, Swete and Gwatkin. His one aim has been to throw into a short, simple, popular, yet accurate form the invaluable historical facts bearing on the Christian ministry, which these authorities adduce. This is done with remarkable success, with commendable lucidity, and with considerable scholarship. There are three chapters—The New Testament "Bishop": The Catholic Bishop: The Anglican Bishop. The last chapter is an appendix to a task at one time considered completed. This book should be widely circulated and thoughtfully read. The Author lays many ghosts and banishes many bogeys. He shows up the weakness of the unhistorical theory of the mechanical apostolic succession, and demonstrates what the real succession is. There are two classes of people who will, in particular, derive benefit from this little book—the considerable number of those who have become enmeshed in the plausible arguments of the Anglo-Catholics, and those who have an inexpressible, and unconfessed, fear concerning the scriptural character of the historic episcopate. Mr. Cohu has done a great service to the unlearned in putting the case so simply and so convincingly.

THE CREDENTIALS OF THE CROSS. By Northcote Deck, M.B., Ch.M. South Sea Evangelical Mission, Aola, British Solomon Islands. With Foreword by Albert A. Head. London: *Morgan and Scott, Ltd.* Price 2s. 6d. net.

In his Foreword Mr. Head writes, "I earnestly commend this volume to the attention of all who would know more of the preaching of the Cross as the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; and as a stimulating and encouraging message to those who are earnestly seeking the extension of the Kingdom of Christ amongst the unevangelized nations of the world." This is a very helpful book, not only for Holy Week and Easter, but for all the year. After some very inspiring and precious thoughts on the Upper Room, Gethsemane, and Calvary, we are led in spirit along the road to Emmaus, and once more meet the Master in the Upper Room, on the evening of the great Easter Day, when His sacred wound-prints are exhibited as our title-deeds. Afterwards both in the scene by the Lake, and also on the Galilean Mountain, the great missionary call is brought home to us, while this is still further urged upon us in the concluding paper on "The Enduring Reward."

Dr. Deck evidently belongs to a family which has yielded its full quota to the missionary work of the Church, for he writes, "I know of those (apparently his own parents) who have given five of their own children to join the King's Foreign Legion. I know with what deep emotion and thankfulness each one of us in turn has been yielded up, to go forth to His glorious service in answer to lifelong prayers." Well may he add, "Such a patrimony of prayer is a never-ending benediction. It is a most precious possession, the most to be desired in all the world. God grant you the joy of obtaining it for your children."

The whole book is fragrant of the Master and of His wondrous love, just where that love was so signally manifested, viz., from the Cross of Calvary.

PRAISES WITH UNDERSTANDING. By Gertrude Hollis. *S.P.C.K.* Price 1s. 6d. net.

This is described as "a simple book about the Psalms, describing their origin, history and use in Christian worship." The authoress is well up in her subject. She seems to set the Psalter before us from every point of view, and that in a most attractive and interesting, because picturesque, manner. Their use in Jewish and Christian worship, and more particularly in our own Church, is well traced out. Miss Hollis has evidently been in Palestine and appears quite at home in noting the allusions to Eastern life, as she also is in what she writes on the natural history of this part of the Bible. She is very observant and has an eye to the beautiful. We regret that she refers as she does to what are called the Imprecatory Psalms, also that having raised a difficulty in connexion with them there seems to be no attempt to remove the difficulty by a satisfactory explanation. On the whole, however, we like the book and find it full of most instructive and valuable information.

DOMESTIC SERVICE. With a Preface by Mrs. George Wemyss. London: *Constable and Co., Ltd.* Price 2s. net.

It was the happy inspiration of "an old servant" to give us this pleasing volume of reminiscences which may be profitably read by mistresses (and even by masters!) as well as by servants. She entered her first situation at the age of ten and now looks back upon fifty-two years of domestic service in nineteen different situations—nine in Scotland and ten in England. Looking back down "the river of years" to her earliest experiences she tells how

she would gladly serve the same people again : she has seen many changes and " in many cases prefers the good old ways." So varied have been her experiences that she tells of the house in which Family Prayers were observed, and of another where the gas was turned off so that the maids should not read the Bible in their rooms ! Scattered over these pages are some excellent bits of advice to servants. She says, " Never mind if you do not have ' Miss ' on your letters from them " (the employers). The writer never had " Miss " on one letter from her father. Again she says, " Never pry into places where you have no right to be and never carry tales outside." Again, " Servants should never touch the (library) books unless they have leave." She urges servants " to report all breakages at once . . . it is very mean to hide it and say nothing." Here, too, employers will find much to set them thinking. The writer has no admiration for those who " test servants' honesty by leaving money in chairs or on the floor." " You must tell the truth about every one you recommend " is a useful piece of advice which were better acted upon more frequently. There are some touching memoirs of dear women whose thoughtful consideration and genuine piety won a lasting affection, and of boys who are now serving as officers whom the writer still serves by prayer.

FIRST THINGS FIRST. By A. Gregory Wilkinson. *The Church Book Room*, 82, Victoria Street, S.W. Price 4d. net.

This pamphlet of twenty pages deals plainly with the great facts of spiritual experience. Starting at the position that " vast numbers of Englishmen live as if there were no God," the writer emphasizes the fact of conscience ; the necessity to respect and obey conscience ; condemnation by conscience ; repentance toward God ; and the obligation to honesty and purity of life.

THE WONDERFUL PRAYER. By Gertrude Hollis. London : *S.P.C.K.* Price 2s. net.

This is a simple but charming explanation of the Lord's Prayer. Primarily intended for young people, it will serve admirably as a gift-book for older folk. Attractively got up, the cover is adorned with Sir Joshua Reynolds' famous picture—The Child Samuel—which reappears inside as the frontispiece.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST. By M. Winnington Ingram. London : *Longmans, Green and Co.*

Here is another volume of the London Diocesan Sunday School Manuals containing fifty lessons, arranged by Miss Winnington Ingram, daughter of the Archdeacon of Hereford and niece of the Bishop of London. They are specially intended for children of from seven to ten years of age who have come up out of the Infants' department. If capable teachers were as plentiful as the many excellent helps that are now provided, the Church of England Sunday Schools might take their place, second to none.

THE CROSS AND THE SWORD. By the Rev. G. R. Oakley, M.A., B.D. London : *S.P.C.K.* Price 2s. net.

Mr. Oakley has a happy knack of telling again famous stories, and in these pages he has written up the Soldier-Saints of England—" English Monarchs, representative of their times, who maintained their Christian saintliness amid the clash of arms." There are eight of these sketches from Eadwine to King Charles the Martyr, for whom Mr. Oakley has nothing but unqualified praise.

LECTURES ON THE RUSSIAN CHURCH. London : S.P.C.K. Price 1s. 6d. net.

INTERCOMMUNION WITH THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH. London : S.P.C.K. Price 1s. net.

The Bishop of London contributes a preface to the first of these volumes, which consists of four lectures on the history, constitution, doctrine and ceremonial of the Russian Church. It is only natural that at the present time our interest should be stirred up in the Greek Church, but we cannot close our eyes to the fact that there is much in her doctrine and practice with which loyal and soberminded sons and daughters of the English Church are not likely to be in agreement.

The second volume is virtually a plea for intercommunion. The writer says that "any confederation with Protestants rejecting the Apostolic Succession and Sacramental Grace would be fatal to intercommunion." This is sufficient to show his standpoint, as well as the difficulties with which his proposals are attended.

NEW TABERNACLE SERMONS. By T. De Witt Talmage, D.D. London : Hodder and Stoughton. Price 6s. net.

The sermons of this well-known American preacher, of which there are thirty-two in the volume before us, are written in an interesting and forceful style, and are never dull. There is a fascination about them which holds the reader and appeals to him, and they are moreover very sound and Evangelical. Of course we cannot line ourselves to everything he says. Thus in the sermon on "The Great Assize" we fail to see why the Judgment Day should cover no more than a space of twenty-four hours, or that the lost as well as the saved will stand before the Saviour in the air. Such points notwithstanding, we like the book. It will be an acquisition to any clergyman's or minister's library, and we can quite imagine its being blessed to conversions.

WHAT TO KEEP FROM AND WHAT TO KEEP. Friendly advice to young fellows setting out in life and to others who have already traversed part of the journey. By the Rev. Innes B. Wane, M.A. London : Charles Murray. Price 1s. net.

This little book, pre-eminently readable, is full of sound, practical counsels addressed to young men. The author seems thoroughly to understand their difficulties and temptations, and his exhortations are enforced by many an apt illustration and historical reference likely to appeal to those with whom he is dealing, and showing at the same time a wide extent and variety of reading. In his preface Mr. Wane tells us his "little work makes no pretension to any originality," and he refers to it as "scarcely more than a piece of patchwork." Even if, however, this is not an excess of modesty on his part, we venture to think that any lack of originality is more than compensated by the skill with which other authors have been laid under contribution, each being made to yield his quota at just the right place and time to serve the great purpose aimed at. The little volume should have a large circulation, and is calculated to do much good. It would be a very suitable gift to a young man.

STORIES OF THE KINGDOM. By the Rev. Will Reason, M.A. London : Morgan and Scott. Price 2s. net.

There are five-and-twenty addresses on the Parables, to boys and girls, from the pen of one who has learned how to place his ripe experience at the disposal of the coming generation without "talking down" to his hearers. Like all the writings from the pen of this author we have something in his latest work which hits the mark.

DRAWING THE NET. By the Rev. J. Morgan Gibbon. London: *Morgan and Scott*. Price 1s. 6d. net.

The author, in this volume, has laid his finger upon a weak spot in the work of the Churches—their failure to “gather in” the young; and has shown how, from his own experience, something may be done to remedy the defect. The genesis of the volume is an attempted mission chiefly among his own young people, to which there were the most encouraging results. Earnest ministers who long to know how best to bring their own young folk to a “decision” will find much that is helpful in the methods adopted by the writer.

THE GREAT WORLD DRAMA. By Mrs. E. Trotter, London: *Elliot Stock*. Price 1s. net.

This little work deals with prophecy, especially in connexion with the Jews. There is much that is interesting as bearing on the position of their people in the pages of Scripture and the purposes of God, and also relating to the part they are sustaining in the present struggle of the nations. Mrs. Trotter seems not averse to the Anglo-Israel theory, though she does not tie herself to it. “Many see in what is called Anglo-Israel the promise of the future uniting of the race. Be that as it may, there is much to create interest and careful study of the times, and if the interpretation is a Spirit-given one and not the outcome of national pride, it will develop and expand.” Yes certainly, but is it a Spirit-given interpretation? The arguments against a land like Palestine capable of supporting some three and a half millions being able to contain thirteen millions of Jews are well met. Their border is to reach to the Euphrates according to the grant given to Abraham, and so includes a large tract of fertile and rich land only lately begun to be re-developed. Then it is no more necessary that all Jews should actually be in their land than that all Englishmen should be in England. We certainly cannot go with the writer when referring to Daniel vii. she says “The lion, the bear, and the leopard are symbols fairly easy to interpret, representing Israel, Russia, England.” In her interpretation of prophecy generally Mrs. Trotter follows the Futurist position.

GOD'S MINUTE: A Book of 365 Daily Prayers sixty seconds long for Home Worship, written specially for this book by 365 of the most eminent Clergymen and Laymen in the English speaking world. *The Vir Publishing Company*. Price 2s. net.

This little volume which is printed (copyright) in the United States devotes a page to each day of the year, every page being headed by a suitable text followed by an appropriate prayer. Variety is guaranteed by the fact that each prayer comes from the pen of a different author, a list being given of the various writers. Some idea of the nature of the prayers may be formed from the fact that in this list the names may be found of such men as Professor Griffith Thomas, Sir Robert Anderson, the Rev. F. B. Meyer, the Rev. W. Graham Scroggie, and last but by no means least Canon Girdlestone. A good many are Americans. A work of this sort meant to stimulate private prayer and devotion ought to be of invaluable aid to those who are helped by such suggestions (coming in many cases from riper, and perhaps more experienced Christians) in their daily approach to God.

GLOWING FACTS AND PERSONALITIES. By Edward Smith, with a Foreword by Dr. J. H. Jowett. *R.T. Society*. Price 1s. net.

The subject of this little book was a traveller, a missionary enthusiast,

and one of the foremost leaders of the Adult School movement. Mainly through his enterprise and munificence the Temperance Institute at Dudley was erected. "The memory of Edward Smith," says Dr. Jowett, "is very bright and sacred to all who had the privilege of knowing him; he tells new stories of lives made over again by the marvellous ministries of the Eternal Love." There is no question that Edward Smith by his persistency in endeavouring to reform the habits of working men wrought an achievement which might well be considered almost incredible. This book should be read by all Adult School workers, and might with profit be used occasionally at their meetings.

J. C. W.

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH. By T. W. Crafer, D.D. Lecturer at Downing College and Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge. *Cambridge University Press*. Price 1s. 6d. net.

This new volume of the "Revised Version for Schools" must not be confused with the "Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges," nor with the "smaller Cambridge Bible for Schools," published at the University Press. In a fairly full introduction, Dr. Crafer discusses the name, the contents, the sources and the chronology of the books, and gives a short and informing account of the Persian Period and the Exile and the Return. The author's standpoint is that of a reverent and moderate critic. The notes are adequate and scholarly.

THE EMPIRE OF SILENCE. By the Rev. Charles Courtenay, M.A., Chaplain of Holy Trinity Church, Rome. London: *Sampson Low, Marston and Co. Ltd.* Price 6s. net.

Mr. Courtenay, who is not unknown to our readers, has given us a volume of over 400 pages in which the subject of silence is turned inside out and upside down. One marvels at the patient research which is revealed on every page. The chapter "Shakespeare and Silence" is an excellent example, and indeed every branch of literature and art is pressed into service to such an extent that the reviewer is defied and defeated. It is a book to buy and keep. It is brimful of illustrations in which preachers should rejoice and ordinary readers be glad.

We welcome from the S.P.C.K. some new tracts for the times. *Fatalism* by the Rev. R. H. Malden; *The Apocalypse of the Present Age*, by Canon Goudge, and *Fasting Communion*, by the Rev. O. C. Quick (3d. each); and *A Prayer for Special Occasions*, by C. A. E. Moberly, and *Spiritualism, What is it?* by the Rev. G. R. Oakley (2d. each.)

Miss Edith A. Charter is to be congratulated upon a very bright idea. Knowing the spiritual value of John Bunyan's immortal work, she has compiled a new textbook, entitled *Some Daily Thoughts on the Pilgrim's Progress* (the Churchman Publishing Company, Ltd, 2s. 6d. net). The selections have been made with care and skill and are well calculated to have an excellent effect upon the reader, uplifting to those who know in their heart's experience the truths that Bunyan taught, and helpful and suggestive to those who are still bearing the burden of their sins. The volume covers a period from January 1 to June 30, and suitable verses and thoughts are added to each reading. A volume that many will delight in. Prebendary Webb-Peploe contributes a commendatory preface.

