

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

82 VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

Books suitable for Lenten reading are many, and the various publishing houses who issue books of this kind are not behindhand this year in giving churchpeople a varied selection. Of the new books which have come before us, the one which seems to have the greatest "special message" is Canon de Candole's *Christian Assurance* (3s. 6d. net cloth and 2s. net paper cover). The book is designed as a series of short readings for each week-day in Lent, and in the words of the author has a very simple and direct purpose. It is written with the desire of offering a word of good cheer to any who in a cloudy and dark day have begun to question, or be less sure of, the Christian hope. But it is not only to the perplexed that the book will appeal. It will strengthen and encourage many an earnest Christian.

The Rector of Cheltenham, the Rev. H. A. Wilson, issued last year a book for Lenten meditation entitled *The Time of Refreshing* (2s. net). Lent is a time of spiritual refreshment, and the author's aim is to give some practical help in the strengthening of the soul. The little book concerns itself only with the old truths, and if it succeeds in calling its readers to those truths it will have met one of the greatest needs of to-day. Clergy who are contemplating a course of addresses on Holy Week will find the four concluding addresses both useful and suggestive. They are brief considerations of four incidents in the spiritual experience of St. John the Evangelist under the titles "The Oath Made," "The Great Incentive," "The Broken Oath," "The Recovery." The other addresses are very practical and inspiring.

A re-issue of *Christus Redemptor*, by Dr. Tait, of Ridley, at 1s. net, and 9d. net, will be welcome. It is distinctly a book with a message, and a message which is definite. The theme is Jesus Christ, as the title signifies. Dr. Tait brings up to the fact that when the Evangelical revivalists stood up to preach, what arrested the attention of the people was the certainty, the assurance, with which they spoke. Previously men had preached moral essays, now they preached Jesus Christ. The five addresses the book contains were originally delivered at St. Paul's Cathedral and are meditations on 1 Corinthians i. 30. In a succession of chapters—"The Divine Model," "Wisdom from God," "Righteousness," "Sanctification," "Redemption"—Dr. Tait enunciates several fundamental truths concisely and forcefully. The paragraphs in the book are neither long nor difficult. The use of Holy Scripture is constant. It is a book for meditation, and at the end of each chapter are passages for further consideration and suitable collects for those who desire to use them.

Christ and the World is the title of a little book of Lenten addresses by Canon R. B. Girdlestone (9d. net). They will be found helpful to readers who will also be able to enjoy the simple and colloquial style in which they are given. Canon Girdlestone has not adapted the addresses to "book form" but has printed from the shorthand writer's copy. The titles of the six chapters—"The World and its Prince," "The World and the Church," "Coming out of the World," "The Pleasures

of the World," "Tests of Worldliness," and "Helps to Attain an Unworldly Spirit"—give an indication of the scope covered by the book, which is full of thoughtful suggestion.

Many will be glad of the wholesome doctrine contained in Canon W. E. R. Morrow's little volume, *Christ Magnified* (1s. 3d. net). The title itself is a happy inspiration and well describes the purpose of the contents of a really useful little book. The six sermons which the book contains deal with important aspects of the person and work of Christ. The sermons will bring help to the many who are striving to "magnify Christ" and are a message to those who are still seekers after truth.

Manuals containing simple and clear instruction on the Service of Holy Communion are always in demand, particularly one specially suited to candidates from higher elementary or secondary schools. *My First Communion*. *First Communion*, by the Rev. A. R. Runnels Moss (1s. and 1s. 3d. net), will be found such a book. The Bishop of Manchester contributes a preface, in which he describes the book as helpful to true devotion and containing instruction true to the principles of the Communion Office in our Church without being controversial in tone; it is quite definite in its teaching, and it has a special value at the present time, when Romanising manuals are scattered broadcast.

Another little book of a different type is *The Holy Communion: its Institution, Purpose and Privilege*, by the Rev. Canon Barnes-Lawrence, Vicar of St. John's, Boscombe, 1s. net, and 6d. net. The aim of this little book is to provide a manual giving positive teaching rather than controversial, treatment and as it is impossible in any book on the Holy Communion devotional, or otherwise, to leave out entirely the controversies of the day, Canon Barnes-Lawrence has relegated those controversial parts to a series of very valuable notes which he prints at the end. The book is intended specially to help young Christians of the more thoughtful and educated classes.

The Bishop of Sodor and Man's Manual *Holy Communion: Historical, Doctrinal and Devotional*, 1s. 3d. net, is a book of yet another kind. The chief idea in writing this manual is to provide a handbook which will be both historical and doctrinal, and yet at the same time devotional and practical, without being overloaded with detailed instructions which tend to divert the communicant from the main principles of the service. With this end in view, the Bishop lays the foundation in a series of introductory chapters dealing with the preparatory and yet all important aspects of the subject. He then builds on them a historic, devotional and practical explanation of the service itself. The book is written for the average intelligent and earnest communicant, who desires to know something of the history, more of the doctrine, and most of the true spirit of the Communion Office, and is designed to help to a reverent and intelligent observance of the service.