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CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES

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Prayer Book Teaching.—The series of booklets published under the general title of Prayer Book Teaching has been added to since the last issue of *THE CHURCHMAN* by four numbers, bringing the series up to 17. The Rev. George F. Irwin, B.D., contributes one on *The Ministry of the Church*, and gives a very clear and concise answer to the question, "What is the teaching of the Prayer Book as to the nature and purpose of the Ministry of the Church?" The Rev. C. Sydney Carter in his booklet *Christian Priesthood* shows how the failure to realize the great difference between the Jewish and Christian priesthood in the Middle Ages led to the dangerous and unscriptural claims for the Christian Ministry in the Middle Ages, and finally to "Anglo-Catholic" teaching of to-day. He ends by a section on the positive teaching of our Church on this matter. Mr. Carter has also written a second manual, *The Christian Church: Its Development, Corruption and Renewal*. In this he traces the growth and development of the Christian Faith through the early organization of the Church, the growth of Papal claims, mediæval abuses, the Renaissance and the Reformation to the present day. Finally the Rev. T. W. Gilbert, D.D., gives us *A Short History of the Prayer Book*. He points out that the Prayer Book in its present form is the outcome of a long history, and he gives a very useful and complete, though short, account of the various uses and variations of services before the Reformation, the influence making for an English Book of Common Prayer, and the Prayer Books of 1549, 1552, 1559, 1604, and 1662.

Ministerial Commission.—A new book by the Rev. C. Sydney Carter has just been published, entitled *Ministerial Commission*, and it has had the advantage of a preface by the Bishop of Chelmsford. The author discusses the founding of the Christian Church and the growth of an organized ministry in New Testament times. The nature of this ministry is carefully examined in the light of the most recent research and scholarship. The development in the organization and government of the Church during the third century are fully set forth, and the author gives a fairly full account of the principles guiding the Reformers in their attitude towards Ministerial Commission as necessary for the well-being of the Christian Church. In a concluding chapter the author summarizes the views of Ministerial Commission held during the crucial periods of Church History, and notices the attempts made in modern times to heal the divisions of Christendom, and especially the present attitude of the Roman and Eastern Churches on the question. The problem and prospects of Reunion in the Homeland and in the Mission Field amongst the various Reformed Communion are carefully considered and estimated, especially in the light of the recent "Lambeth Appeal." It is a clear, comprehensive and concise account of a pressing and highly important subject. The book is published at 2s. 6d. net, and is particularly valuable in view of the Prayer Book revision discussions.

Communicants' Unions.—A little Manual for Communicants' Unions has just been compiled by Canon Cecil W. Wilson, Vicar of Swansea (price 1d., or 7s. per 100). The Manual gives particulars of Membership of the

Union, its objects and rules, a Service for meetings of the Union and admission of Members. There has been a difficulty in finding suitable forms for use in connection with such Unions in the past, and it is hoped that the present little Manual will supply a need.

Alternative Communion Service.—Bishop E. A. Knox has recently published a new book entitled *Spiritual Objections to the Proposed Alternative Communion Service* (price 3s. 6d. in cloth, 2s. 6d. paper cover), in view of the National Assembly meeting this month. The Bishop states:—

“ It is commonly supposed that the Church of England allows, though it does not teach, a doctrine of Eucharistic sacrifice securely resting on the doctrine of the early Fathers. The object of this book is to show that any idea of Eucharistic sacrifice implying a continuation, or continued presentation, of the Sacrifice on the Cross involves (1) a defective idea of the complete reconciliation of God with us, and (2) the necessity of a Divinely appointed Priesthood, to offer to God the elements of bread and wine changed by consecration into the Body and Blood of Christ. The failure of the attempt of the Caroline divines to establish their teaching as distinct from the Roman doctrines which they repudiated is explained, as well as the reasons why the teaching of the Tractarians has passed of necessity into that of the Anglo-Catholics.

“ The proposed alternative Communion Service is shown not to be faithful even to the standard of English teaching which it professes to maintain, and to be not an alternative with that of the Prayer Book, but fundamentally opposed to it in its conception of our relation to God. The whole question is reasoned on spiritual grounds, with an earnest desire to avoid mere party cries or watchwords. The appeal is to devout and sober-minded Church-people, and exhibits to them the reasons why Archbishop Laud and his followers prepared the way for the confusion in which the Church of England is at present entangled.”

Has Man a Future Life?—Colonel Seton Churchill has just issued a pamphlet entitled, *Has Man a Future Life? What is Its Nature?* (2d.) Many readers of THE CHURCHMAN will be familiar with the previous writings of the author and will look for the fresh and attractive style which is peculiarly his. Such pamphlets as *Is there a Prayer-Answering God?*, *The Road that Led me to Christ*, and *Purity of Life*, have been found of the greatest service by workers and district visitors, and particularly in work among men and boys. The present pamphlet is full of interest and should be a help to many.
