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philosophy undertakes to do what in reality all sound physicists declare to be impossible—to explain life from laws of matter.

Our space will not permit us to say anything of the constructive part of this timely book ; but we trust enough has been said to induce many, especially of the clergy, to obtain these two volumes and to acquaint themselves with its methods and results. We can assure them that neither their time nor money will be wasted.

W. H. THOMPSON.

Short Notices.

OXFORD CHURCH TEXT-BOOKS.

General Editor : Rev. LEIGHTON PULLAN, M.A.

Price 1s. each volume.

- (1) *History of the Book of Common Prayer.* By Rev. J. H. MAUDE, M.A.
- (2) *Early Christian Doctrine.* By the GENERAL EDITOR.
- (3) *The Thirty-Nine Articles.* By Rev. B. J. KIDD, B.D. Vol. I., Articles I.-VIII. ; Vol. II., Articles IX.-XXXIX.

THE idea of the editor of this series is to provide a comprehensive series of cheap scholarly manuals dealing with all the more important branches of religious knowledge. The general editor himself is most favourably known to students by his admirable work of two years ago, entitled "A History of Early Christianity," The fact that he is to guide the destinies of the series is of itself a recommendation. The volumes, if studiedly brief, will be complete as far as they go ; they will be written in an interesting way ; they will be scholarly. They will also, as we judge directly from an examination of the first four volumes, be written from the (so-called) Anglo-Catholic standpoint. We shall not be disappointed, therefore, if we find they reveal a definite bias ; indeed, we should expect this. The doctrine of the Real Presence is distinctly affirmed as being that of the Church of England ; the theory is laid down that the Church of England has studiously refrained from condemning the doctrine of Saint-invocation ; and many other questionable statements are made of a similar kind. Thus, these little books cannot be regarded as free from misrepresentation—or, at least, from misinterpretation. At the same time, they are not without a positive value ; only they require cautious handling. Mr. Kidd's volumes are valuable to students, inasmuch as they give the two Latin versions of the Articles, dated 1553 and 1563 respectively, arranged in parallel columns, to facilitate reference. Mr. Pullan's volume is a really brilliant sketch, in the briefest space, of Christian doctrine as it exhibited itself from earliest times until the Council of Chalcedon. A few more references, in the form of footnotes, would have been acceptable ; but the writer promises us a larger volume shortly, in which will be incorporated such aids to understanding the history of the times. In Mr. Maude's book notice may be directed to the four additional notes, two of which deal with the Sacred Canon of the Mass and the Eucharistic doctrine ; they furnish material for reflection, though not for agreement.

Early Israel and the Surrounding Nations. By the Rev. A. H. SAYCE. Service and Paton, 1899. Price 6s.

Professor Sayce's new book fills a gap in our rapidly growing Old Testament literature. In seven chapters he sketches in bold and rapid

outline the story of the history of the Israelites—Canaan, the Nations of the South-east, the Nations of the North-east, Egypt, Babylonia, and Assyria—and in the Introduction and Conclusion shows their influence upon each other and upon God's ancient people. These chapters are written with all the wealth of expert knowledge and illustration which we have learned to expect from the author. There are also valuable appendices giving translations of some of the more important original documents, such as the Moabite Stone, the Babylonian Creation and Deluge tablets, etc. We recommend the work to the attention of Old Testament students as being reliable and fair. The only doubtful point we have noted is the precarious identification of Chedorlaomer.

Religion of Israel to the Exile. By KARL BUDDE, D.D., Professor of Theology in Strassburg. London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1899. Price 6s.

The fourth of the series known as the "American Lectures on the History of Religions," it forms practically an introduction to Professor Cheyne's "Jewish Religious Life after the Exile." Dr. Budde is an advanced critic, but one who feels that the time for a new departure has come, in which account will be taken of tradition as well as of history. It is a pity that history for Professor Budde does not begin a little earlier than Joseph, and although on page 16 we are promised in Chapter III. a treatment of the question of how the stories of the patriarchs arose, yet Chapter III. is innocent of any such topic, as is also the index. There is a good deal that is luminous and helpful in the way in which he works out the evolution of the religious ideas of the Israelites, but he does not appear to have grasped all that his initial position demands. If Jehovah (or Yahweh) were known to the Kenites, and was their war-god, and through Jethro became known to Moses (though this will require a great deal more proof than the Strassburg Professor has given), it does not follow that this involved a national conversion. The Israelites still worshipped El-Shaddai, though they added another name to that known to the patriarchs. They did not forsake El-Shaddai. Their conception of God was enlarged, no doubt, on any hypothesis, but He was one and the same God all through. The parallel in the New Testament is absolute. The Christians worshipped, and still worship, the "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," and their conception of God was thereby enormously extended in its content and in its bearing upon life. But He is always acknowledged (1) as Jehovah and (2) as the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob—*i.e.*, as El-Shaddai. There are many signs in the volume of the dawning of a brighter day in Old Testament criticism of the extreme kind, and we are thankful to welcome it as an instalment of better things to come.

The Apocalypse. An Introductory Study of the Revelation of St. John the Divine; being a Presentment of the Structure of the Book and of the Fundamental Principles of its Interpretation. By EDWARD WHITE BENSON, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury. London: Macmillan and Co., 1900. Price 8s. 6d. net.

Next to his work on St. Cyprian, Archbishop Benson had made the Apocalypse a matter of life-study. It was his share in the great Cambridge scheme which has given us the commentaries of Lightfoot and Westcott and Hort. Left unfinished, it has been lovingly edited by Miss Margaret Benson, and represents the major part of the Archbishop's final thoughts as to treatment. It must suffer from two fundamental objections: first, that the author was not a Hebrew scholar, and, secondly, that he appears not to have known of (or, if he knew, to

have deliberately set aside) the newer method of the comparative study of literature of this kind. In other words, there is here no account taken of the work of Professor R. H. Charles and other labourers in the same fruitful field. The questions of authorship and of unity are alike taken for granted. So far negatively. What, then, have we of a positive kind? The Archbishop himself seemed to anticipate a good deal of criticism when he wrote: "Many will think it a very odd book." It is fantastic and weird in places, and has a certain aloofness which is curious, and which, too, explains some things in the author's life. He treats the Apocalypse as he would a Greek play, and writes of the persons, the hierophant, the scene, the voices, the choric songs, the four cardinal points of introduction; he illustrates it from Auberlen; gives a new and vigorous translation; comments on the meaning of "Apocalypse" at great length and with helpful suggestion; defends the odd constructions, in an essay on the "Grammar of Ungrammar" (unhappily only a torso); endeavours to overthrow the almost universal identification of the wild beast of the abyss with Nero; in a word, looks at the book with new and unprejudiced eyes, and makes us do the same. So that although in some minor details it may stand in need of revision, and although it ignores the comparative method, yet if the view that Dr. Benson took be the true one, the comparative method is needless here, and the unity of authorship is established by the inner unity of design. No one can read the study without being the better for it, while the care of printers and publishers has made the reading of it a delight.

Pilate's Gift, and other Sermons. By the Right Rev. G. A. CHADWICK, D.D., Bishop of Derry. Religious Tract Society. Pp. 286. Price 5s.

This volume does not attempt to gain popularity with its readers by presenting them with a temporary Gospel or reciting controversial catchwords. The delicate, firm rhetoric of the Bishop's sermons is more congenially employed in showing "that not 'behind' Christianity and the Church and the State and social reform, but above and in front of them, is the living personal Captain of our salvation—salvation from all ills and in all relations." The sermon from which the book takes its title is a striking discourse upon defective appreciation of sacred things, particularly of the more quiet and gentle opportunities and duties. The poor regard which Pilate, the priests and the disciples showed for the crucified body of our Lord furnishes the ground-plan of a very solid exhortation.

Tombs or Temples? Addresses to Men and Women. By the Ven. Archdeacon MADDEN. Elliot Stock. Crown 8vo., cloth. Pp. 150. Price 3s. 6d.

These shrewd, wholesome and straightforward addresses are good to read, and were, no doubt, still better to hear. Among the themes dealt with are: "The Rights of Women," "The Rights of Children"—an excellent defence of Church schools—"The Heart of the Home"—an address to the Liverpool Mothers' Union; several earnest spiritual appeals, with such titles as "Searching Candles," "Sin," "The Power of Christ's Resurrection," "The Metamorphic Power of Prayer"; and some useful popular Evidential lectures. The book is sure to do good to the classes for whom it is intended, and may be read with profit by many who work as teachers or preachers among them.

Father Fox. A Story of the Present Day. By DOROTHY MARTIN. Elliot Stock. 8vo. Pp. 186.

This is a well-written warning against the system of Neo-Anglican Sisterhoods. It hardly strikes one as having been written by one who

knows the system from the inside, but the broad facts are put clearly enough, in contrast with a Kingsleian character; and the story, though sensible of its mission, is a story.

The Harvest of a Quiet Eye. By the Rev. J. R. VERNON, M.A. Religious Tract Society. 8vo. Pp. 285.

The public has known this book for a long time, but it has not done with it yet. The still-maintained rush of modern life makes this new edition quite as desirable as was the first edition of years ago. Its affectionate outlook on Nature; its peaceful, satisfying meditation; and its gentle upward gaze and aspiration, will continue to win friends for it among keen and tired people.

Some Worthies of the Irish Church. By Professor G. T. STOKES, D.D. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

Those who are interested in the history of the Church of Ireland will appreciate the lectures contained in this posthumous publication. Professor Stokes' name is well known in connection with two valuable contributions to that history—"Ireland and the Celtic Church," and "Ireland and the Anglo-Norman Church." The history in this volume is presented in the form of narratives of prominent divines, chiefly Narcissus Marsh, Archbishop of Cashel, and William King, Archbishop of Dublin—names almost forgotten now; yet they were men who made history, as the author shows. There are also two lectures on St. Colman of Lindisfarne, the Yorkshire missionary. While we have not history in the shape of a connected account in this book, we have what may prove useful materials for that purpose; and perhaps in this form it will be more readable and interesting to the majority, and may, we hope, arouse greater interest in a neighbouring Church which has done so much in the past for Christianity in our own country.

Words of Exhortation. By Rev. W. C. E. NEWBOLT, Canon of St. Paul's. London: Longmans, Green and Co.

Canon Newbolt's power seems to lie in his deep knowledge of human life and human nature, and this naturally lends force to his applications of Christian principles and Biblical incidents to the manifold aspects of that life. This gift, combined with intense spirituality, makes his writings both practical and helpful—not to any one section of the Church, but to all sections. The first eight sermons contain needful warnings, as much to those who think with their author as to those who differ from him on present difficulties in the Church. But we prefer those other sermons which treat of larger themes, with their plain enforcements of duty and responsibility, reverence in worship—subjects which are needful to the clergy and laity alike. We commend them for their deep earnestness and spirituality, as also for their simple and apt application of old Biblical scenes and principles to present everyday life.

Neglected Factors in the Study of the Early Progress of Christianity. By Professor JAMES ORR, D.D. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

This volume contains three lectures delivered in the Theological Seminary of Auburn, New York, in October, 1897. They deal with a view of early Church history which the author believes to have been much neglected in the new critical methods of study. Much attention has been paid to the influence of the moral, political and religious environment on Christianity; but the reverse action—*i.e.*, that of Christianity on its pagan surroundings—has not been sufficiently emphasized. The lectures in this book seek to supply this deficiency. The first shows that the number of Christians in the Roman Empire at any period during the first three cen-

turies was much greater than has been usually admitted ; the second points out that Christianity penetrated very much further into the middle and upper classes of society than has been generally allowed ; while the third deals with its influence on pagan thought and culture. On the whole, the volume is useful and full of interesting details, though the arguments would not be fully acceptable by all students.

The Atonement. By Rev. A. E. SIMMS, B.D. London: Elliot Stock.

Four addresses delivered during Holy Week last year. They present what might be called the orthodox view of the subject—that the death of Christ removed an objective hindrance to the forgiveness of sins. Perhaps they give too much attention to the removal of the penalty, and not enough to the removal of the guilt, of sin. However, they will be found useful at this season.

Clement of Alexandria. By Rev. F. R. HITCHCOCK, B.D. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

This little book is one of a series on the Fathers, for English readers. The publication will be a useful one, especially for those who have not the time or the knowledge to read larger works. The present volume is happily conceived, well written, and gives an excellent account of its subject. We can very heartily recommend it to our readers.

Lessons on Christian Doctrine and Christian Practice. By Rev. M. STEVENSON. Church of England Sunday-School Institute.

The lessons follow the teaching of the Church's year, and will no doubt prove valuable aids to Sunday-school teachers. They are bright and full of information. They should be widely used in our schools.

The Book of Psalms. University Press, Cambridge.

Contains in parallel columns the Prayer-Book, Revised and Authorized Versions of the Psalms, so arranged that comparison can be made at a glance. Will be found useful for students as a book of reference.

In Tune with the Infinite. By RALPH WALDO TRINE. London: George Bell and Sons.

The title indicates the nature of the book. It contains two principles—that all human life is from the Divine source and of the same kind, and that the mind has complete power over the body. By keeping our connection with the Divine source open and free we may acquire much of its strength and power and wisdom ; and by concentrating the mind upon all that is good and beautiful and true we may thus shape our own bodily life. Much of the book is unquestionably true, but it is doubtful if the mind has so much power over material things as is imagined. The book seems to be well received in America.

The Mystery of the Ages. By Rev. B. N. SWITZER, M.A. London: Elliot Stock.

Professes to set forth the scheme of the Divine dealings in the world, based on a literal interpretation of the Scriptures. The writer lays no claim to scholarship, but seems to have an intimate knowledge of the Bible itself. He teaches that everything was absolutely perfect when created ; that there was a race of sentient beings prior to Adam, existing in those unnumbered ages which lay between the first two verses of the first chapter of Genesis ; that prophecy is history written before. We fear that such statements as these will not commend the work. The truth is, the writer puts his own ideas into the Bible, as to a certain extent everyone must do. It is not so literal an interpretation as he imagines.