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popular ; it is thoroughly scientific ; but the subject-matter dealt with is in itself of profound interest. To sum up his position in a sentence, it may be enough to say that Dr. Driver's essay ("The Witness of the Monuments : Hebrew Authority") is a covert attack on Dr. Sayce's well-known writings on the same subject. Paradoxically stated, the object of Sayce is to discount the verdict of the Higher Criticism ; that of Driver to minimize the witness of the Inscriptions. Perhaps the truth will be found, as elsewhere, to lie midway between these two positions. Of one thing we are certain : that it is our duty to steer clear of all critical "etiquette" on matters affecting historical and theological questions, because a rigid adherence to "etiquette" in these important matters both stifles the life of free inquiry, and renders barren and useless the truly critical faculty, which depends for its effectiveness on the untrammelled right to doubt, as well as to accept, the current hypothesis or theory of the hour.

It is quite impossible, within the brief limits at our disposal, to attempt to criticise this work in detail, involving as it does specialized knowledge of several branches of archæology. We are satisfied, by our perusal of the book, that it will supply a real need ; not only so, it will afford the careful student the material necessary for forming his own judgment. Neither Dr. Driver nor any other of the able contributors to this work appear, knowingly, to shirk a difficulty or to suppress facts ; these facts are usually given with great clearness, and we may form our own conclusions independently. This is as it should be.

The book might possibly have been improved by the addition of some illustrations and facsimiles ; but the index is as good as could be desired. Not the least interesting chapters in the work—which is, above everything, scholarly and scientific in its methods—are those devoted by Mr. A. C. Headlam to the Early Church and the Catacombs at Rome. Nor should the editor's "Forewords" be forgotten ; they admirably sum up the standpoint aimed at by the various writers in the ordering of the book as a whole.

E. H. B.

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## Short Notices.

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*The Exiles' Book of Consolation*, contained in Isaiah xl.-lxvi. A Critical and Exegetical Study. By ED. KÖNIG, M.A., D.D. Translated from the German by the Rev. J. A. SELBIE. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. 1899. Price 3s. 6d.

**A** BOOK suitable only for critical students possessing a fair acquaintance with the original Hebrew. Dr. König is a learned commentator, but we cannot say his book is interesting. It is difficult reading, and drier even than the majority of German disquisitions. The index of Scripture passages quoted in the course of the work is exhaustive.

*Studies in Church Dedications ; or, England's Patron Saints.* By FRANCES ARNOLD-FORSTER. Three volumes. Skeffington and Sons. Price 36s.

This great work has been carried out with immense patience, care and sympathy, and will take its place as the standard authority on the subject. The historic faculty of Dr. Arnold has been revived in his grand-daughter. The first two volumes contain critical and historical biographies of the different saints to whom our churches are dedicated, classified in an admirable way in groups according to their character, nationality, and position in the Church. The third volume contains a statistical summary

of dedications, an index of parishes, with their dedications, and a corresponding index of saints, with their parishes. The whole work is one of profound interest, an invaluable contribution to English Church History, excellently conceived and most ably and successfully executed.

*England and the Age of Wycliffe.* By GEORGE MACAULAY TREVELYAN. Longmans and Co. Price 15s. Pp. 380.

This is one of the most important contributions to English history of recent years, and it is interesting to see that it is written by the eldest son of Sir George Trevelyan (the biographer of Fox and Lord Macaulay), and the great-nephew of the Historian of England, who is also a Fellow of Trinity. The picture of English life in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries is extremely vivid; but the great value of the book is its impartial account of the state of religion in England which roused the reforming spirit of Wycliffe, its identity with the Roman system, its ignorance, degradation and superstition. If these chapters could be published in the *Times*, they would shatter many fond ideals of the Middle Ages which are now working mischief in the English Church. The style is so brilliant and the book so interesting that it is difficult to lay it down.

*A Name to Conjure with.* By JOHN STRANGE WINTER. F. V. White, 14, Bedford Street, Strand. Pp. 302.

Mrs. Stannard has risen in this pathetic story to the level of tragedy. Happily it ends well; but the note of struggle and sorrow all through is strong and touching. Nobody could depict a popular authoress better than Mrs. Stannard; but she has added to her own experiences the conception of a high-minded woman gradually overcome by the temptation to use excessive stimulants in order to stir an over-wearied brain. Though not intended as a temperance story, but rather as a psychological problem, this work will be immensely popular amongst those interested in temperance work.

*Wine on the Lees.* By JOHN A. STEUART. Hutchinson and Co., Paternoster Row. Pp. 347.

The author of "A Minister of State," who in that work drew on his recollections of life in the Scottish Highlands, has in this very touching and interesting novel made a study of the drink question as it affects the lower strata of society. The second important character of the book is a good-humoured ex-soldier, who is a leader in public-house circles and the lower adherents of the turf and ring. The hero is the eldest son of the greatest brewer of the day, who is led by his own observation to give up the trade. The various aspects of the beer and whisky industries are touched with penetration and fidelity. The book is a profoundly interesting study, and though, like "A Name to Conjure with," not intended as a contribution to temperance literature, cannot fail to be heartily welcomed by all interested in temperance reform.

*Boy's Own Paper.* Annual Volume. R.T.S. Office, 56, Paternoster Row. Price 8s. Pp. 840.

This is the twenty-first volume, and we heartily congratulate this excellent periodical on coming of age. The present handsome edition maintains the high reputation of its predecessors. Adventures, the Aquarium, the Aviary, Birds, the Magician, Competitions, Correspondence, Cricket, Monthly News, Electricity, Fowls, Gardening, Indoor Amusements, Interviews, Kites, the Microscope, the Notebook, Pets, Photography, Poetry, Rabbiting, What shall I be? and Words of Cheer, make capital serials, and there are the usual stirring stories and charming illustrations.

*Girl's Own Paper.* Annual Volume. R.T.S. Office, 56, Paternoster Row. Price 8s. Pp. 848.

There can be nothing but praise for this interesting and charming serial. Variety is secured by a number of continued papers on different subjects: Answers to Correspondents, Bee-keeping, Competitions, Cookery Recipes, Dressmaking, Girls' Employments, Household Hints, International Correspondence, Letters from a Lawyer, the Lily Garden, Things in Season in Market and Kitchen, Medical Correspondence, Study and Studio, Varieties, Village Architecture, and the like. The stories and illustrations are, as usual, very happily appropriate to their object.

*The Sunday at Home.* Annual Volume. R.T.S. Office, 56, Paternoster Row. Price 7s. 6d. Pp. 812.

Our old friend maintains perpetual youth and vigour. The special features this year are Biographies, Varieties for the Young, Handwriting of Famous Divines, Homespun Homilies, Music for Sunday Mornings, Physical and Spiritual Harmonies, Poetry, and Far and Near (monthly notes). The whole volume is an admirable companion for "the day of rest," and should be a most acceptable Christmas gift.

*The Leisure Hour.* Annual Volume. R.T.S. Office, 56, Paternoster Row. Price 7s. 6d. Pp. 812.

It is always a pleasure to turn over the pages of "The Leisure Hour." This year the fare is as excellent and wholesome as usual. Biographies are always a feature; and here are twenty-four of persons of whom everybody would wish to know something. "The Fireside Club" contains acrostics, prize paragraphs, etc. "Oversea Notes" gives information about foreign countries. "Science and Discovery" gives a long series of things worth knowing and curious. There are also Second Thoughts, Sketches, and Varieties. The Serial Tales and the Illustrations are of a high order.

*His Brother's Keeper.* By CHARLES M. SHELDON. Ward and Lock. Pp. 320.

A striking companion to "In His Steps." The story is one of a young proprietor of mines brought face to face with a strike. The rights and wrongs and conflicting motives connected with the intricate questions involved are worked out with fearless truth.

*St. Kilda, and Psalms of Life.* By WALTER J. MILLER. London: Elliot Stock. 1898.

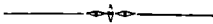
Although very unequal in merit, there are yet phrases in this slender volume which ring true. "Two States" is a pretty poem; and the "Lines to a Young Man on leaving a Public School," if not particularly original, are well turned. The principal fault we have to find with Mr. Miller's book is the rigour with which he emphasizes his opinions. This does not imply that we do anything but agree cordially with the opinions, but merely that we do not think poetry the best medium for their expression.

*The New Home.* By Mrs. C. S. PEEL. Westminster: Archibald Constable and Co. 1898. Price 3s. 6d.

The aim of this book is "not only to show how comfort, beauty, and fitness may be brought about, but also how they may be brought about with economy." It appeals "to the average man and woman possessed of moderate income who desire as healthy, comfortable, and artistic a home as their means will permit." So Mrs. Peel says in her preface, and she has achieved her purpose. This is a sensible and well-arranged book, full of good suggestions and practical advice. For people who are about to start housekeeping, and are inexperienced as to what to get, and where to get it, this is one of the most useful books we have come across.

*Unpainted Pictures.* By HUGH NICHOLAS BURGH. London: Elliot Stock. 1899.

Impressionist sketches in blank verse of pictures impressed upon the mental retina of a man who has not learned to paint on canvas, but who has a keen sense of natural beauty. An interesting experiment fairly justified by the result.



## The Month.

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THE Archbishop gave a characteristically manly address at a public meeting held in the Birmingham Town Hall in connection with the Worcester Diocesan Conference. Among other things, he challenged the popular notion that it was not necessary for a clergyman to be a learned man. He had known, he said, men who had neglected study, and who began by being effective preachers, but who ended by being failures, as they had exhausted their knowledge and experience. As an old schoolmaster, he said that what was wanted in a teacher was knowledge, accuracy, and, above everything else, freshness. No man could go on long teaching who had ceased to be a student. It is not, says the *Spectator* in a note on the subject, the conventional thing to say that a man can only keep his freshness of mind by study, but it is nevertheless absolutely true. Quite so. And one of the things that is causing anxiety now to wise Churchmen is the fact that so many of the recruits to the ranks of the ordained within our Church are men whose learning is superficial and inadequate. "There needeth a change" here, as well as in other directions.

War with the Transvaal has begun fiercely. Already two British victories have been chronicled; that of Glencoe was announced on Trafalgar day. Our hope is that England will rapidly secure the end in view—which is justice all round in the Transvaal—and that this war will not be prolonged unduly.

Darjeeling, the sanatorium of Bengal, has met with a grave disaster through the slipping away of the sides of the hills at various points, owing, no doubt, to the heavy rains. Nearly 400 people have perished, and vast damage has been done everywhere.

The Prison Commissioners pay a very warm tribute in their annual report, just published, to the work carried on throughout England and Wales by the Church Army Prison Missioners, and also to the work carried on by the Society's Labour Homes throughout the country in helping discharged prisoners. Eight-days' missions are conducted in the prisons by a special staff, while arrangements are in operation for at once receiving into the Society's Homes prisoners direct on their discharge.

The Local Government Board have just sent to the hon. chief secretary (the Rev. W. Carlisle) an official expression of their warmest goodwill in the mission work which is being carried on in the workhouses of England and Wales by the Church Army Workhouse Missioners. Three, four, and eight days' missions are being conducted by a special staff.

The Queen has graciously given the sum of £400 from her Privy Purse to the father of the young French fisherman who was killed while fishing in British waters by a shot from the gunboat *Leda*.