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Literary Notes.

QUITE a number of volumes are about to be published, or have just been issued, relating to India and kindred matters. Here is one: "Indian Jottings: From Ten Years' Experience in and around Poona City," by the Rev. Edward F. Elwin. The object of these "jottings" is to tell, as simply as possible, what India is really like, the social and working life of the people, and the true character of Hinduism. Some missionary experiences are detailed by the author, who has lived among the natives on friendly terms, and has seen and heard a good deal that does not come under the observation of those in official positions. Of course, anything of an "unofficial" character is generally, in matters such as this volume deals with, more complete; and at a time like the present, when it is more than ever important that Englishmen should endeavour to learn the mind and feelings—a problem which many great men have honestly striven to unravel, but have failed—of the Native Indian, apart from questions of politics, such a work as this should receive special attention.



Then, I notice Sir George Watt, C.I.E., LL.D., has prepared a "Handbook of Commercial Products of India," which is published under the auspices of the Government of India. This was a happy "official" idea, as the work sets forth the sources, materials, history, production, utilization, and trade returns of all the major products and industries of India, arranged in the alphabetical sequence of their scientific nomenclature, together with a copious index of trade and vernacular names.



It was quite an excellent scheme of the Royal Asiatic Society to commence the publication of a series devoted to Indian Texts—at least, from the point of view of all those interested in India: her people, her religions, her arts, her professions, and her trades. And what good Churchman is not, when he remembers the tremendous missionary interests vested in her, and the claim she has upon our sympathy, both prayerful and practical? This series of volumes, which the Royal Asiatic Society is supervising, includes, so far, three volumes of the "Storia Do Mogor, or Mogul India (1653-1708)," by Niccolao Manucci, Venetian, translated, with notes and introduction, by William Irvine. It will be eventually completed in four volumes, and is profusely illustrated.



To "The Wisdom of the East" series there was recently added a little shilling brochure on "Arabian Wisdom," being selections and translations from the Arabic by John Wortabet, M.D. Two more have just been added to this excellent little series: "Brahma-Knowledge: An Outline of the Philosophy of the Vedanta," as set forth in the Upanishads and by 'Sankara, by Dr. L. D. Barnett, Professor of Sanskrit at University College, London; and "The Sayings of Confucius," a new translation of the Confucian Analects, with introduction and notes by Lionel Giles, M.A.



Reference to a volume entitled "From Peking to Mandalay" may properly be made at this point. It is an account of a journey from North China to Burma through Tibetan SSuch'uan and Yunnan, by Mr. R. F. Johnston, M.A., F.R.G.S. The work is largely a description of scenery and peoples, and a record of the fortunes of a traveller. But it is also a contribution to the study of the language, religion, and ethnology of the peoples whose country is described, and to the interpretation of the politics of the Chinese Empire and of the habit of mind and point of view of the Chinese. The route taken for an arduous part of the journey had not, I believe, been previously traversed by a British subject.



Mr. W. S. Lilly has added his quota to the current literature dealing with the East. His new work is entitled "Many Mansions: being Studies in Ancient Religions and Modern Thought." In this book Mr. Lilly surveys the most ancient and the most recent philosophies of religion. The work is introduced by an essay on "The Sacred Books of the East"; the last chapter deals with the latest hypotheses of the Higher Criticism.



The foregoing paragraphs exhaust the list of the most promising works upon India and the East of the present publishing season. But before I turn to one or two volumes dealing with books which, perhaps, will have a closer appeal to the reader, I should just like to mention a volume dealing with "The South African Natives: Their Present Condition and Progress," which has been edited for publication by the South African Native Races Committee. It deals with the most important aspects of the remarkable social and economic changes now taking place among the natives of South Africa.



For many years before his death the late Bishop of Durham had been engaged on a revision of the Greek text of the Gospel according to St. John, with notes. A considerable part of the notes are those which already appear in the "Speaker's Commentary," but these have been revised and enlarged. The work is edited by the Bishop's son, the Rev. A. Westcott, Rector of Crayke, Easingwold. The title of the volume will be "The Gospel according to St. John: The Greek Text Revised, with a Revised English Version and Notes."



Messrs. Allenson have two little unknown books in their list. One has had the notoriety of being publicly burned, and of setting two very eminent French Churchmen, Fénelon and Bossuet, at loggerheads. Its author suffered imprisonment in the Bastille while the wrangle continued. It is Madame Guyon's "Method of Prayer," and appears in the series known as "The Heart and Life Booklets." The other volume is "The Supersensual Life," by Jacob Boehme, a mystic. The rendering which has been reprinted is that by William Law, who once said: "Next to the Scripture my only book is the illuminated Boehme, for the whole kingdom of grace and nature was opened in him."



Major Gambier Parry has prepared a book, unique in its way, giving a history of the famous Eton house, known to so many generations of Etonians as "Evans'." "Annals of an Eton House," which may almost be described as a history of Eton during the past seventy years, can scarcely fail to interest all lovers of the greatest public school.



Mr. Murray has for some time had in preparation a "New Dictionary of the Bible," edited by the Rev. William C. Piercy, with illustrations, plans, and coloured maps. It is expected that it will be shortly ready in one volume. Although similar in size and scope to Sir William Smith's well-known "Concise Bible Dictionary," it will be practically a new work, popular in character, but based on all the most recent discoveries of scholarship and antiquarian research.



From the same house is to come an English translation of "The Early History of the Church," by the Abbé L. Duchesne.



"The Rise of the Greek Epic," by Professor Gilbert Murray, has just been issued by the Oxford Press. The volume is composed of a series of lectures forming the first part of an attempt to study the growth of Greek poetry as an embodiment of the progressive spirit, and an expression of the struggle of the human soul towards freedom and ennoblement.



The life of Dr. John Watson, better known as "Ian Maclaren," should be a very interesting biography, and the writing of it could not have been placed in better hands than Dr. Robertson Nicoll's.



The Chaplain to the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Rev. Richard de Bary, has recently published an orthodox alternative to the "New Theology," entitled "The Spiritual Return of Christ within the Church," being certain papers on Christian theism. The main purpose is to show how early Christian realism is in itself essentially spiritual, and how its use as the religious philosophy of Christianity would quicken and vitalize faith in the dogmas of the Church.



"Quaker and Courtier" is a good title, and it concerns itself with the life and work of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. The volume has been written by Mrs. Colquhoun Grant, who, it may be recalled, wrote that very readable book on "The French Noblesse of the Eighteenth Century." Moreover, Mrs. Grant is a direct descendant of William Penn. Some hitherto unpublished letters will be included.



Professor Metchnikoff, who is the Sub-Director of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, has written a work upon "The Prolongation of Human Life," which he calls with the very happy phrase "Optimistic Essays." An authorized English translation has been made. It has also an introduction by Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, Secretary of the Zoological Society of London.

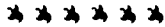
Metchnikoff expounds at some length his main thesis—that human life is not only unnaturally short, but unnaturally burdened with physical and mental disabilities. He analyses the causes of these disharmonies, and explains his reasons for hoping that they may be counteracted by a rational hygiene. Finally, he discusses the social and moral aspects of his proposal.



It is probable that there is no other Member of Parliament who is so highly respected as Mr. Burt. Perhaps he has hardly an enemy in the House. His life is to be written by Mr. Aaron Watson.



“Trees and their Life-Histories” is the title of a new work by Professor Percy Gordon. The book is illustrated by over 100 full-page plates and 400 smaller ones.



Dr. Angelo Mosso has prepared a work upon “The Palaces of Crete and their Builders.” It gives the results of recent excavations in Crete by members of the British and Italian schools of archæology, and is fully illustrated with actual photographs of many impressive memorials of ancient civilization brought to light in recent years.



In my notes last month I said that the Duke of Argyll's new book, “Passages from the Past,” and Sir Harry Johnston's “George Grenfell and the Congo,” were published by Messrs. Pitmans. This was a slip. The publishers are Messrs. Hutchinson and Co.

M. C.



Notices of Books.

THE INTERLINEAR BIBLE. Cambridge: *University Press*. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This cheap edition is very welcome. The publication last year of the Interlinear Bible superseded at once all other editions which give the Authorized Version and Revised Version in parallel columns. It is so printed that from one text both versions may be read. The plan adopted is to give the text in large print where the versions agree, and where they differ to put the Revised Version on an upper line and the Authorized Version on a lower. Thus the differences are seen at a glance. The facility with which the eye can see and the mind appreciate the differences between the versions gives this Bible an entire advantage over all other devices. No one who is contemplating the purchase of a Bible for study should think of obtaining any other than this. It is impossible to see how the method can be improved upon. The marginal notes of both versions are also given, and there are central column references, which are those of the edition of the Revised Version published some years ago. The Interlinear Bible is published in several editions and styles, particulars of which can be obtained direct from the publishers.