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Reviews of Books.

EARLY DOCUMENTS.

TRANSLATION OF EARLY DOCUMENTS, edited by Dr. Oesterley and Canon Box and published by the S.P.C.K.

- (i) The Biblical Antiquities of Philo.
- By M. R. James, D.Litt., F.B.A. 8s. 6d. net.
- (ii) The Book of Jubilees. By R. H. Charles, D.Litt., D.D. 4s. net.
- (iii) The Wisdom of Solomon.
- By Rev. W. O. E. Oesterley, D.D. 2s. 6d. net. (iv) The Letter of Aristeas.
 - By H. St. J. Thackeray, M.A. 2s. 6d. net.

(i) PHILO. This is a Bible history from Adam to the death of Saul, and was written soon after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Dr. James believes that the book was published anonymously, and that the name of Philo was attached to it by an accident. The purpose of the anonymous author seems to have been to supplement the existing Biblical narrative. Written originally in Hebrew, the book was translated into Greek, and the Greek was rendered into Latin. It has come down to us only in the Latin Version. This Latin version is now for the first time translated into English. Being a first-century Jewish document, it furnishes a good background to the New Testament. For instance, in xxxiii. 2-5 we get an interesting sidelight of the contemporary Jewish belief regarding the condition of the departed. We learn that there is no room for repentance after death, and that the fathers after death will not pray for Israel. The bearing of these verses on the parable of Dives is obvious. The volume is furnished with an introduction, index and appendices, and the whole work is executed with that care and accuracy that one would expect from Dr. James.

(ii) THE BOOK OF JUBILEES, sometimes called "The Little Genesis," has been preserved only in Ethiopic. Canon Charles has given us an excellent translation with short notes, and Canon Box in an informing introduction tells us that the book must have been written about the latter years of the second century B.C. by a member of the Hasidean party in the hope of bringing about a reformation of the Jewish Calendar.

(iii) THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON is not from the pen of King Solomon. It was written in Greek, probably in pre-Christian times, and contains "Solomonic Wisdom " or wisdom after the manner of Solomon. The book must have been known to St. Paul. The author "identifies wisdom with the holy spirit of the Lord, as well as with the Word (in the Jewish sense) and teaches its divine origin and its existence before the creation of the world." In the introduction Dr. Oesterley gives us an interesting account of the Wisdom Literature of the Jews.

(iv) THE LETTER OF ARISTEAS professes to be a contemporary record, by a heathen of the court of Ptolemy Philadelphus (265-247 B.C.), of the translation of the Hebrew Pentateuch into Greek. From the tone of the book, however, it is evident that the author was a Jew whose main object was "to commend and magnify the Jewish nation." His description of Jerusalem has the vivid touch of an eye-witness. Mr. Thackeray thinks that the book was written about 120-80 B.C. The appendix, giving the evidence of ancient writers on the origin of the Septuagint, is both interesting and valuable. The detached Note, on the last page, contributed by Canon Box, does not seem convincing. The Rabbis used the verb "to write" in a much wider sense than

we do in English. For instance, in Baba Bathra, 15a, we are told that "Hezekiah and his college *wrote* Isaiah." Obviously "wrote" means here "edited." In the quotation, on page 90, where we read that "five elders *wrote* the Law in Greek for King Tolmai" (=Ptolemy), the context shows that "wrote" means "translated."

As suggested in a previous number of the CHURCHMAN, each of these volumes is furnished with short explanatory notes.

KHODADAD E. KEITH.

"FIGGIS OF BRIGHTON."

FIGGIS OF BRIGHTON. A Memoir of a Modern Saint. By the Rev. J. Westbury Iones. M.A. London ; Marshall Brothers. 6s. net.

It would have been a more appropriate sub-title had the author added "A Modern Apostle "---for Figgis of Brighton possessed the apostolic spirit in a signal degree.

John Benjamin Figgis was one of the outstanding figures in Evangelical Christianity during the latter half of the nineteenth century, and for the greater part of that time, and beyond its limit, his special ministry was in Brighton. Here for thirty-seven years he ministered at the Countess of Huntingdon's Church in North Street; and for fifteen years more at Emmanuel Church, Hove.

But beyond the settled ministry in his appointed churches, Mr. Figgis exercised an influence that had the widest limits; and was well and widely known in connection with the Keswick and other Conventions, the Evangelical Alliance, and kindred movements.

Moved by a burning zeal for his Master's glory and the salvation of souls, Mr. Figgis left a deep and permanent mark upon the town. His truly Irish sense of humour, and his wonderful sympathy, endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Though definitely of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, Mr. Figgis was in sympathy with all spiritual effort. His house in Brighton was situated between the Church of the parish in which he lived and the Congregational Chapel. This gave rise to the saying that his sympathies, like his habitat, were midway between Church and Chapel. But, in reality, this was not so. Mr. Figgis was all but a Churchman : indeed in love for the Church of England and in support of the great principles for which she stands, he was a more faithful champion than many who are in her ministry. He was a frequent communicant in the Evangelical churches of the town, and received his last communion in one of them on the Ascension Day before his death.

Perhaps the most interesting feature in the volume is the chapter which narrates his dealings (with other ministers of his "Connexion") with the Archbishop of Canterbury and selected Bishops, in May, 1890, with regard to the relation of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion to the Church of England.

One practical point (which has been echoed twenty-seven years later at the Cheltenham Conference of last Autumn) was that of Interchange of Pulpits. The Primate (Dr. Benson) and the Bishop of London (Dr. Temple) declared themselves ready to advocate an "Act of Parliament for the preaching of their clergy in Nonconformist pulpits."

Perhaps the happiest side of Mr. Figgis' life is seen in his home-life. His sweet resignation under domestic affliction, and his deep and p rsonal devotion to his boys. On the pastoral side the lessons to be learnt are two unflinching declaration of the simple Gospel, and unwearying patience with individual souls. The book is full of interest, for Mr. Figgis was a many-sided man; and the writer, though compelled to execute his work within a limited time, has presented a wonderfully accurate and full picture of one whose life was eventful and whose activities were amazing.

RECONSTRUCTION THEORIES.

THE KINGDOM THAT MUST BE BUILT. By the Rev. Walter J. Carey, M.A., R.N. London; S.P.C.K. 25. 6d. net.

Mr. Carey has established quite a reputation for forceful writing, and he has a happy knack of emphasizing points of agreement with those who must differ from him, for there is no concealing the fact that he belongs to the "advanced" party. He is never irritating, and in this little book there is a great deal in which every earnest Churchman will rejoice and find inspiration and guidance. There is a world of truth in the last chapter—" The Fundamental Difficulty "—in which he shows that " the dominant note of to-day is the flippancy and surface-life of the multitude," and in which he calls clergy and laity to "get on with the war."

THE CHURCH IN THE FURNACE. Essays by seventeen Temporary Church of England Chaplains on active service in France and Flanders. Edited by Canon F. B. Macnutt, M.A., S.C.F. London: Macmillan and Co. 55. net.

Bishop Gwynne, C.M.G., Deputy Chaplain-General of the B.E.F., contributes the preface, and Canon Macnutt, the editor, the first of the essays entitled "The Moral Equivalent of War." Of course there is a good deal of overlapping, many of the writers having felt the same difficulties. There is the same sort of criticism to which we have grown used, of the formularies of the Church, of the Psalms, the Lectionary and so on. But surely it did not need a European War to reveal to these Chaplains the fact that the larger proportion of the working men of this country are out of touch and out of love with organized religion ? Those who have worked in large centres must have heard the orators in the parks and elsewhere, who week by week vilify the clergy and misrepresent Christianity, and yet some of these brethren write as if they had made a new discovery. However, it is refreshing to find that something constructive is aimed at. Mr. Neville Talbot, brilliant and forceful, writes, for example, on the Training of the Clergy. We should like to quote some of his courageous criticisms, but the limitations of space preclude the possibility, and we can only hope that his words will be read and pondered by those whose concern is the training of the Clergy. Mr. Marcell Conran, who is the "inventor" of an adaptation of the devotion of the Rosary, writes on the subject of Instruction in Prayer. He tells us that we must have in our Churches Crucifixes, lamps hanging before the altar, candles and such like. But he forgets that all these things have been tried, and have failed to win the men. It may seem to be no part of a reviewer's work to deal with what is not in a book, but we put down this collection of essays with the feeling that while there is much truth in a great deal that has been written (in some cases with distinct brilliance), it yet fails to answer the question, "What is wrong with the Church of England ?" Our answer would be, "She needs a Converted ministry." We can imagine this would be Mr. Walter Carey's answer. It is not the formularies of the Church that are wrong, it is that we need more men of Spiritual force and experience. Our hope is that after the war many who have begun to see the seriousness of life will be coming to our Bishops for Ordination. It is satisfactory to know that this stream has already begun to flow.

CHANTS IN WAR.

CHANTS IN WAR. By W. S. Pakenham Walsh, Trinity College, Foochow, London : Elliot Stock. 1s. 6d. net. i a 94

A collection of poems of real grace and charm. The Archbishop of Armagh, commending the little volume in a brief preface, says that "very touching thoughts are enshrined in language of great force and beauty, and the reader will lay down the book with a heart full of thankfulness to God for the gallant lives and heroic deaths of our men 'at the Front.'" There are nearly fifty poems, each one in some way related to different incidents in the War. The Archbishop specially mentions two poems, "Commemoration" and "Behind the Veil," which "even if they stood alone, would warrant the publication of this book with its happy, hopeful and helpful inspiration," and indeed they are worthy productions breathing the spirit of a true poet. Among others we much like "An Unknown Hero," with four verses, of which we quote the last two :---

John E. Robinson, Sergeant,

Twice over had won his V.C.

But 'twas off in the scrub in a corner,

And there wasn't no captain to see. John E. Robinson, Sergeant.

There's dozens of men of the name.

But they're most of them lost in the scrimmage.

Though they're all of them playing the game.

John E. Robinson, Sergeant,

Is marked up on Eternity's roll,

You needn't go hunt for his body,

Nor be anxious at all for his soul.

John E. Robinson, Sergeant,

Lies anywhere under the sod ;

But he's mentioned in heaven's despatches,

And he'll get his V.C. from his God.

We must make space also for two verses from a noble poem, "Gone West." A mother asks if any one has seen her boy, and she is told, "Your boy is neither sick nor missing, but Gone West." She sets out for the West to seek her boy, and whenever she inquired always the same reply was given. "Gone West."

And thus the day wore on until the evening hour,

And as I watched the glory lighting up the West,

Out from the crimson clouds there came a voice which said : "Fear not, Your soldier boy is serving at his Lord's behest."

I bowed my head, I knew the meaning of the words,

I understood that simple soldier phrase, "Gone West,"

And every sunset when I see the glory lighting up the skies,

I am content to have it so, for God knows best.

THE RUSSIAN CHURCH.

BIRKBECK AND THE RUSSIAN CHURCH. Essays and Articles by the late W. J. Birkbeck, M.A., F.S.A., written in the years 1888-1915. Collected and Edited by his friend Athelstan Riley, M.A. London: S.P.C.K. Price 8s. 6d. net.

At the beginning of the war fresh interest in Russia and her Church was stirred up, but we can hardly expect that recent events in that country will have tended to deepen that interest. Still this book, which is a continuation of Russia and the English Church, Vol. I, and contains the writings of one whose knowledge of Russia is unique, is sure to find many readers.

A man of erudition, ample means and wide travel, Mr. Birkbeck spent some years of his life between his beautiful home in Norfolk (Stratton Strawless) and Russia, where he had innumerable friends, including the Tzar and members of the Imperial family, and therefore the essays throw much light upon political and religious life in that country. Mr. Birkbeck's sympathies are well known, as are those of Mr. Athelstan Riley, who says in his preface----"For more than thirty years we thought together and acted together in every phase of storm and stress that overtook the Church of England during that period." In view of that fact it is not surprising to read on the next page that "he was familiar with the Sarum service-books and could order to the smallest detail the ceremonies of a High Mass." He seems to have shared Queen Elizabeth's dislike to Bishops' wives, and we think that there are not many who will agree with him that they are "practically harmful to Diocesan ministration "---these, together with other revealings in the preface, suffice to show opinions which of course colour these pages.

Mr. Birkbeck, however, held that "the modern papal claims and system were dangerous exaggerations and historically and theologically untenable" and that the hopes of the Church of England lay "in a gradual approximation to the Eastern Church and eventual union with it as the guardian of true Catholic tradition." Perhaps the most interesting chapters in the book are those on the Slavonic language and Russian Theology.

RAID STORIES.

RECORDS OF THE RAIDS. Put together by the Bishop of Stepney, with an Introduction by Lt.-Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd, and a Conclusion by the Bishop of London. London: S.P.C.K. 6d. net.

How readily we all read everything we can get hold of about "the raids," and those who purchase this little volume will find abundant value for their money. They will enjoy a hearty laugh over the quaint stories told simply and quietly by the Bishop of Stepney; they will admire the splendid heroism of the people as depicted in the reports of the clergy; they will rejoice over she steadfastness in prayer of many of the people; and they will weep over the records of those bruised, broken, maimed and killed in the terrible ontlaughts. There is one other thing which will strike attentive readers : they will experience a glad and thankful surprise that the death-dealing Zeppelins and Gothas have not worked still greater havoc, and the fact can only be accounted for by the gracious Providence of a loving Heavenly Father. Every one should read this little book : it offers fresh faith, fresh hope and fresh inspiration.

BISHOP BRENT'S VOLUME.

THE MOUNT OF VISION, being a Study of Life in Terms of the Whole. By Bishop Brent, of the Philippine Islands. London: Longmans. 35. net

It has been the custom of the Bishop of London in recent years to secure the publication of some small volume, suitable for reading in Lent, to which he has written an introduction. This year Bishop Brent was the writer, and he has given to a large circle of thankful readers a really great and inspiring message, exceeding its forerunners in the series both in the loftiness of its conception and in the depth of its thought. The book owes its genesis to the invitation of the Bishop of London to the American Bishop as they were driving to the great service in St. Paul's Cathedral, which marked the entry of the United States into the Great War. The chapters were thought out and written during journeys by land and sea, the preliminary draft having been sketched while travelling on horseback over the mountains of Luzon.

ON MARRIAGE.

MARRIAGE. By the Bishop of Norwich. London : John Murray, Albemarle Street.

The Bishops of London and Durham contribute "Forewords" to this most useful little book—eminently suitable, especially in its cheaper form (6d.), for putting into the hands of young people who are about to enter the Holy estate of Matrimony. There is a simple explanation of the Prayer Book service (which is printed at the end, followed by a short form of Family Prayer) together with much sane, helpful advice; while there are some plain truths upon such important matters as the increase of the family, the danger of mixed marriages, "of whatever character," and the undesirability of too hasty alliances—all of which are timely. We cordially echo the Bishop of Durham's hope that the author " may have the gladness of seeing his book welcomed far and wide."

IN DEFENCE OF THE LAITY.

CLERGY AND LAITY. By the Rev. R. W. Pounder, B.D. London : Elliot Stock. 3s. 6d. net.

The main object of this book is to call attention to the fact that while it is affirmed that the believers in Christ, in their corporate capacity, form a Church, it is denied in practice. As a result we find a vehement vindication of the position and rights of the laity, and a refutation of the mediæval error that the Church is composed of the clergy. The volume contains nine chapters: The Present Situation; The Growth of Sectarianism; The Coming of the Romans; Christ and Sectarianism; The Creation of a Catholic Church; The Laity in the New Testament; Priesthood; Cyprian; The Future. The book is a timely enforcement of facts which should be laid to heart and learnt before the men return from active service.

AMONG ABORIGINES,

ROUND ABOUT THE TORRES STRAITS. A Record of Australian Church Missions. By Right Rev. Gilbert White, D.D. London, S.P.C.K. 25. net.

This is a romantic story of the triumph of the Gospel among the savage aborigines of Carpentaria, Moa and New Guinea. On one occasion, the Bishop asked a native, who had acquired some knowledge of English, how it was that his people were not afraid to swim across the river, which was full of alligators. The native replied : "Oh, that all right; when we cross river, alligator only catch him last fellow; when we cross river we always put him old woman last fellow. Suppose alligator catch him old woman, no matter !" The book is pleasantly written, and will interest both young and old.

A BOOK BY BISHOP WESTON.

CONQUERING AND TO CONQUER. By Frank Weston, D.D., Bishop of Zanzibar. London: S.P.C.K. 15. net.

The Bishop of London in his "Foreword" speaks of "this tender little book, for tender it is, full of love and sympathy and insight into men's difficulties and perplexities and dangers." We agree that there is much in it of consolation in these terrible times; we are specially pleased with Bishop Weston's vindication of the love of God as against those who libel the Divine character; but when the Bishop of London implies that it is wrong to think of the author as "so many people think of him, as a hard controversialist," we do not find ourselves so heartily in accord with him. The chapter "God In Us" is most distinctly controversial.

OTHER VOLUMES.

THE SINS OF RELIGIOUS PEOPLE. Gathered from the teachings of Father Christopher. By A. H. London: S.P.C.K. 2s. 6d. net.

The Rev. Arthur Chambers, Vicar of Brockenhurst, the author of "Our Life after Death," and who quite recently passed away, contributed a Foreword to this collection of addresses, taken down by one who heard them many years ago. They are exactly what they profess to be—" intended to bring home to the consciences of those who thought themselves walking in the narrow way some of the shortcomings to which such are specially prone." A variety of subjects are dealt with, such as Irritability, Insincerity, Jealousy, Censoriousness, the Love of Money, etc. They are characterized by sound common sense and plainness of speech, and we think that "A. H." has rightly felt that they may be helpful " to a wider circle than the handful of people gathered in the dim little church (where, we do not know) for daily Evensong."

DR. RALPH WARDLAW THOMPSON. By Basil Matthews, M.A. London: R.T.S. 25. net.

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Few lives have been lived so completely, from first to last, in the interests of the Evangelization of the world as that of Dr. Wardlaw Thompson. Born in a Missionary home in 1842, having for his maternal grandfather Dr. Ralph Wardlaw, Principal of the Congregational College in Glasgow, and having been trained at Cheshunt College, he became in 1881 connected with the London Missionary Society and remained Secretary almost up to the time of his death in June, 1916. Verily his praise is in all the churches, and Mr. Matthews has given us in these pages a delightful portrait of a devoted servant of Christ, and in some measure too a history of the L.M.S.—that is to say, so far as the thirty-three years of Dr. Thompson's secretariat are concerned. All broad-minded friends of Missions will welcome the record.

NELSON'S LIBRARY. The reprints issued by Messrs. Thomas Nelson & Sons, Ltd., are always of a high-class character, and the volumes which belong to the "Nelson's Library" Series serve to bring some of the best volumes of modern literature—hitherto only available to the few—within the reach of the many. Clearly printed and strongly bound, each volume is published at 15. 6d. net, and is excellent value for the money. Among recent additions to the series are *The Psalms in Human Life*, by R. E. Prothero ; *Life of Gladstone*, by Herbert W. Paul ; *Collections and Recollections* (II), by G. W. E. Russell ; and *Marshal Murat*, by A. H. Atteridge.

THE REVENUES OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. By the Rev. A. C. Headlam, D.D. London: John Murray. 25. 6d.

A reprint of lectures given by the author in St. Martin-in-the-Fields which created no small stir at the time of their delivery, and will well repay the most careful attention in this compact form. Dr. Headlam's plea for reform is a cogent one, and the outline of the scheme he suggests for the reorganization of endowments is sufficiently drastic. But what hope is there of anything practical being done? Yet the need is most urgent, for according to statistics of the Dioceses, published as an appendix, there are 8,029 livings under £300 a year, 5,860 under £250, and 3,275 under £200.

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THE LORD'S SUPPER AS PRESENTED IN SCRIPTURE. By A. T. Schofield, M.D. London: Robert Scott. 25. net.

The Bishop of Durham contributes an introduction to this reprint of articles which appeared not long since in these pages. Differing in manner of treatment from the many devotional manuals which abound, they will be valued in this permanent form, even by those who, like the Bishop of Durham, do not find themselves able to agree with all Dr. Schofield's conclusions.

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THE ADVENT TESTIMONY ADDRESSES. London : C. J. Thynne. 1s. net.

Authorized report of the meetings held at Queen's Hall last December. The addresses were given by well-known Evangelical Churchmen and Nonconformists, to the effect that "the present Crisis points towards the close of the Times of the Gentiles," and that "the Revelation of our Lord may be expected at any moment."

HYMNS OF THE EASTERN CHURCH. By Rev. J. M. NEALE, D.D. London: S.P.C.K. 25. 6d. net.

The late Dr. Neale was the pioneer in translating some of the Hymns of the Eastern Church into English. A collection of his translations was published in 1862. The present edition is issued to mark the centenary of the author's birth. It has an introduction, notes and an excellent portrait of the author.

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GREAT BRITAIN, PALESTINE, RUSSIA AND JEWS. London: C. J. Thynne. 13. net.

These lectures were delivered some years ago by the late Canon Hoare of Tunbridge Wells. They are brought up-to-date by the Rev. E. L. Langston, who contributes three interesting chapters on the Jews of Russia and their Restoration to Palestine.

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS. By A. Gertrude Caton, S.Th. London: Longman, Green & Co. 25. net.

A series of simple lessons on the Creed, the Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and Church Ordinances, written by an experienced teacher of moderate views for the Bishop of London's Sunday School Council.

THE INCARNATION. By Jessie Douglas Montgomery. London: Robert Scott. 15. net.

This booklet, by a cultured Christian lady, is intended to bring Christmas good news to the lonely, the bereaved and the busy slum workers. Canon Masterman contributes an introduction.

NEUTRALITY VERSUS JUSTICE. By A. J. Jacobs. T. Fisher Unwin. 1s. net. An Essay on International Relations. We have also received :---

- THE HARMONIAL PHILOSOPHY. A Compendium and Digest of the Works of Andrew Jackson Davis, "the celebrated American seer" (London: William Rider & Son, Ltd., 10s. 6d. net)—a work which, it is hoped, "will meet a need of the present generation, which is eagerly seeking for more facts which may throw some clearer light upon the mysteries of the other world."
- THE BLACK LIZARD, by Argyll Saxby, M.A., F.R.G.S. (London: Boy's Own Paper Office, 2s. net)—an enthralling story of adventure in the Syrian desert.
- LIVINGSTONE THE HERO OF AFRICA, by R. B. Dawson, M.A. (London: Seely Service & Co., Ltd., 5s. net)—a most interesting story of the neverto-be-forgotten exploits of the explorer and missionary.
- LIFE AND LIBERTY PAMPHLETS.--NO. I. A Call to Prayer (Id. net); No. 2. The Life and Liberty Movement (112d. net); No. 3. Life and Liberty, by the Rev. W. Temple (2d. net)--published by S.P.C.K. for the Life and Liberty Movement for the Church of England.
- MARRIAGE DEFENCE PAPERS.—No. 14. Mothers and the Marriage Laws, by the Rev. F. S. Myers (2s. per 100 net); No. 15. Social Life and Divorce, by Dean Fry (2s. per 100 net); No. 16. Should Divorce be made Easier P by the Rev. F. S. Myers (4s. per 100); No. 17. A Refutation of Statements made by Sir Conan Doyle (7s. 6d. per 100); No. 18. Legalised Adultery, by the Rev. Theodore Wood—published by the S.P.C.K.
- CHURCH SELF-GOVERNMENT PAPERS—No. 19. The Way to Reform, by Mr. W. S. de Winton (3s. per 100 net); No. 21. The Need for Church Reform, by "Presbyter" (6s. per 100 net)—published by S.P.C.K. for Church Self-Government Association.
- S.P.C.K. PAMPHLETS—Forms of Prayer for Use in Times of War, issued by Authority (15. net); The Order of Confirmation, printed in colours (1s. net); The Gospel of Giving; Sermons, Outlines and Papers by Clergy and Laymen of the Diocese of London (1s. 6d. net); True and False Spiritualism, by E. A. G. and P. W. S. S. (6d. net); St. Edward the Confessor and Westminster Abbey, by Bishop G. F. Browne—No. 1 of Church Historical Pamphlets (3d. net).
- OTHER PAMPHLETS—Personal Union with Christ, by the Rev. W. S. Swayne, being No. 8 of "The Church's Message for the Coming Time," Humphrey Milford (1s. 3d. net). The Improvement of the Gregorian Calendar, by Alexander Philip, LL.D., F.R.S. (Edin.). George Routledge & Sons, Ltd. (1s. 6d. net).
