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A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THEY Found God is an account of some little known holy lives by M. L. Christlieb (Geo. Allen & Unwin Ltd., 5s. net.) The author has gathered the materials for these stories mainly from a German work first published in 1735 and now unobtainable. Most of the subjects treated are practically unknown to English readers. They represent various classes as, for example, Armelle, a Servant; the Marquis of Renty, Royal Councillor; Marina of Escobar, Invalid and Visionary; Nicholas von der Flue, Family Man and Recluse; Maria Guyard, Missionary; Catherine of Genoa, Philanthropist; Heinrich Suso, Preacher; Anna Garcias, a Friend. These brief records of interesting lives are clearly set out and give us examples of the power of the Christian Faith in many varying circumstances. They may well provide inspiration for living in our own very different days.

The Archdeacon of Chichester has written what he describes as "A vindication of the Faith and Order of the Church of England." The title is *The Via Media* (Longmans Green & Co., 5s. net), and as the title indicates it is an attempt to justify the Tractarian Movement and its more recent development in Anglo-Catholicism. The Bishop of Winchester indicates that the book is due to a suggestion on his part that a simple statement of the Anglo-Catholic position would be useful, but he makes it quite clear that he does not find himself in agreement with all the author's opinions. The book is mainly an endeavour to set out the reasons why the Anglo-Catholics do not submit to the Church of Rome, but its underlying principles will not be acceptable to Evangelical Church people.

First Things First, by a London Journalist (The United Society's Press, 1s. net) is described as "Vital Messages straight from the shoulder." The author is already known as the writer of *Why Sunday?*, *Why Go to Church?*, and *If I Were a Preacher*. These addresses have the same vividness, wealth of illustration, and popular appeal as his earlier books, and many will no doubt find them effective in their practical power.

Two recent reprints issued in the Student Christian Movement Press Series of "Religion and Life Books" are *The Realism of Christ's Parables*, by Canon Oliver Chase Quick, D.D., and *The Quest of Religion*, by Canon Charles E. Raven, D.D. (1s. each). Canon Quick's book contains the Ida Hartley Lectures delivered at Colne, Lancs. A pathetic story is attached to the founding of these lectures. John

Albert Wilson was killed on active service in France in 1918. He was engaged to Ida Hartley, Superintendent of the Infant Sunday School at Colne. She died suddenly in 1917, and her fiancé left £300 for the purpose of giving lectures on religious subjects to Sunday School teachers of the Established Churches and Nonconformist Churches of Colne. Canon Quick's purpose is to set out the Parables free from any ingenious torturing of them into elaborate allegories, and to show that by their truth to nature they reveal a real relation between the natural and the spiritual order. The usefulness of his treatment is shown by the fact that in its original edition the book was reprinted several times. In its present form it will, no doubt, have an even wider circulation. Canon Raven's book has also had a wide circulation. It sets out some of the fundamental truths of Christianity with a clearness and force that will appeal to many.

The Gospel In Experience is an introduction to Christian doctrine by the Rev. S. H. Childs, M.A., Vice-Principal of the C.M.S. Training College, Awka, S. Nigeria, formerly Scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge (S.P.C.K., 3s. 6d. net). In a brief Foreword the Bishop of Truro commends it as a simple but systematic book on Christian doctrine that supplies a need that many feel. He commends the book especially to teachers and lay readers as there is sound scholarship behind the work and it is remarkably well balanced and free from anything like a controversial tone.

God Speaks To This Generation (S.C.M. Press, 2s. 6d. net) is the report of some of the Addresses delivered at a Conference on International and Missionary questions held at Birmingham in January, 1937. The Conference was organized by the Student Christian Movement and covered a wide variety of subjects which were dealt with by a number of International speakers. A general impression of the Conference is well given by the Rev. Hugh Martin. Readers will find the addresses replete with information on various aspects of Christian life in different countries, and as giving statements of fundamental Christian teaching such as that by the Archbishop of York in his Address on "God In Christ."

Christianity and Our World (S.C.M. Press, 2s. 6d. net) is written by Professor J. C. Bennett, the author of *Social Salvation*, who is well known in America for his study of modern social conditions. This book is the first of a series of "Hazen Books on Religion," the purpose of which is to present simply, compactly, and inexpensively the best available interpretations of the Christian philosophy as a guide to Christian living. The author deals effectively with Christianity in relation to Secularism, Communism, and Fascism. It is useful as a guide to some of the problems which Christians have to face in view of antagonistic world movements of to-day.

Under the title *Freedom, Love, and Truth*, Dean Inge has compiled an Anthology of the Christian Life (Longmans, Green & Co., 12s. 6d. net). The extracts from authors cover a wide range and are well arranged under appropriate titles. They represent the result of the Dean's extensive reading, and his excellent judgement both in prose and verse. We might almost say that even more valuable is the Introduction which he has written. It deals with the value of Christianity in relation to other systems of thought and sets out in a practical way the essential elements of Christian teaching as they are exemplified in the writings of a large number of representative authors. The Anthology is representative of Christian piety, and preference has been deliberately given to Anglican writers.

The Lutterworth Press has issued in excellent book form the Papers read at the Islington Clerical Conference held at the Central Hall, Westminster last January. The subject of the Conference was *The Reformation and its Bearing on some Modern Problems* (1s. 6d. net). There is no necessity to emphasize the importance of the subject, especially in view of several of our modern problems. The Vicar of Islington was fortunate in securing the help of a number of writers well qualified to deal with the various aspects of the subject. The opening papers by the Rev. E. Steinly and the Rev. G. Foster Carter gave a general account of the Reformation. Among the modern problems that were considered, Mr. Guy Johnson dealt with Church and State, the Rev. O. A. C. Irwin with Reunion with the Rumanian and other unreformed Churches, the Rev. J. Paul Gibson with Reunion with the Reformed Churches, and the Rev. Dr. Lavelle with Sacerdotalism. Although the volume is a small one of 125 pages, it contains a quantity of information especially valuable at the present time to all who are concerned with the maintenance of the Reformation principles of the Church and their bearing on our modern life.

The Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Evangelical Union has published an interesting book, *Five Great Non-Christian Religions* by the Rev. C. H. Titterton, M.A., B.D. (2s. 6d. net). It is a popular account of Mohammedanism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Shintoism. The Bishop of Worcester contributes a Foreword in which he points out that such a study of other religions will enable the reader to understand how immeasurably superior in ethical value and in the power to live up to the higher standard Christianity is, and this is a power which has been the despair of other religions to provide. The central facts of each religion are clearly indicated and a useful account is given of their origin and growth. In this way the chief element of Hinduism is seen to be Pantheism, of Buddhism renunciation of desire, and of Mohammedanism a fatalism based on the absolute sovereignty of God. Confucianism and Shintoism are also adequately explained. A useful bibliography is provided for further study.