

Short Notices.

Elijah: His Life and Times. By Rev. Prof. MILLIGAN, D.D. London: Nisbet and Co.

A volume of the "Men of the Bible," and one which is quite up to the level of its predecessors. The language, though occasionally diffuse, is singularly clear and simple, while the accuracy is all that could be desired. A chapter on the Second Elijah will be found helpful.

Sunday-School Lessons on the Church Catechism. By the Rev. J. WATSON. National Society.

These lessons have undoubtedly very considerable merit. The heads are well arranged; the illustrations are good; the lessons are printed in a taking and useful form. They have a very decided Church tone, but we have no adverse criticism to offer. Mr. Watson first gained a reputation as a lesson writer for the Church of England Sunday Institute, but is now writing for the National Society and preparing for them lessons upon the lines and in the style with which Sunday-School Teachers who use the Institute's publications are very familiar.

A Song of Ascents. Thoughts on Psalm cxxi. By the Rev. S. MINTON-SENHOUSE. London: Elliot Stock.

There is nothing very remarkable in either the sermons or the poetry in this little book. As a matter of fact, the expository discourses on the well-known psalm do not occupy half the pages; two sermons on Acts xxvi. 38-44 and Num. vi. 24 (for the New Year), with some extracts, and leaflets, fill the greater number. The sermons were preached at the Royal Hospital for Incurables, and no doubt were very suitable. The poetry is decidedly weak, as:

A path of suffering, it is true,
But nothing else would do for you.
I saw if you would love me much,
My plan of training must be such.
The deeper sorrows that I send
Bring richer blessings in the end.

What Books to Lend, and what to Give. C. H. YONGE. National Society.

This little book seems carefully prepared. Clergymen forming parish libraries, or choosing children's rewards, will find it useful. Nearly 1,000 books and magazines are described, and, on the whole, fairly.

The *Bookworm*, No. 3 (Elliot Stock) has some good notes. An article on Bunyan has a special literary interest.

The *Clergy List* for 1888 (John Hall, 291, Strand, W.C.) is, as usual, wonderfully full and accurate. A very cheap book.

We have received from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode a beautiful edition of their *Teacher's Bible*, large type, printed on India paper. The Queen's Printers' very valuable *Aids to the Students of the Holy Bible* has on several occasions been commended in these pages. The edition now before us calls on every ground for hearty praise. A singularly tasteful volume, it will prove a most acceptable present.

The *National Review* contains a paper on the Welsh Church Question by Mr. Matthew Arnold. He proposes to hand over to the Dissenters of Wales the churches and tithes wherever Churchmen are decidedly in the minority; and he thinks peace and contentment would hereafter prevail! "Plain facts about Ireland," by Hon. George Brodrick, is of high value.

In the *Cornhill* appears an interesting paper, headed "Some Clerical Reminiscences," said to be written by Prebendary Harry Jones. We give an extract: "The laxity and official slovenliness in the discharge of clerical function which was permitted, and really passed without comment not so very long ago, would be almost incredible to some of our ardent and devout spirits in these days. Ordinations, *e.g.*, now attract much public notice. They are reported in other papers beside the clerical. A great multitude attend, especially in London. And they treat the business as no mere spectacle, but come with the reverence which belongs to public worship. This is well; but it was not well when I and some dozen other men were bidden to be at a chapel in Regent Street at eight on a midwinter morning to be ordained. No one was there beside two or three pew-openers who fussed about, and evidently thought that we might stay so long as to interfere with their regular 'sitters.' It looked like it at first, for no bishop made his appearance till twenty minutes had passed. Then he hurried in, unshaved, and got through the service at as fast a pace as he could, and that was not slow, inasmuch as he was hindered by no choir, congregation, sermon, or address. And he was a popular bishop (not my Lord of London) who did this, only between thirty and forty years ago. It was inconvenient for him to use his own cathedral, so he borrowed a chapel in town for the performance. Nowadays, moreover, bishops 'use hospitality' to the young men whom they ordain, frequently having them at their 'palaces' during the previous week, and giving them kindly advice. I saw nothing of my 'spiritual' father whatever; and as to 'provender,' all we knew of it came from a chop which we could smell going into the chaplain's room for lunch. We were examined on the first floor of 27, Parliament Street, and turned loose for an hour at one o'clock." The *Cornhill* has also a well-written paper on the haunts of the Otter.

In the *Quiver* appears a very interesting article on Mr. Hay Aitken and Mission work.

Canon Stowell's paper on "Sunday Schools and the Services of the Church," in the *Church Sunday School Magazine*, is excellent.

The *Church Missionary Intelligencer* contains an appeal which, out of love for this grand and greatly blessed Society, we must quote in full, as follows:

We wish to ask for special and immediate prayer for two definite gifts from Him Who is the Author and Giver of all good things.

First, that in this month of March some of His servants to whom He has given ample means may be led to offer large special contributions to make up for the heavy falling-off in receipts from legacies, so that the dreaded deficiency of £10,000 or £12,000 on the year ending March 31st may be averted.

Secondly, that in March and April, *i.e.* before the Anniversary, several picked men may be led to offer themselves definitely for some of the Missions urgently calling for reinforcement and extension, especially the Missions to Mohammedans in India, Persia, etc.; the Eastern Equatorial Africa Mission; special posts at Lagos, Calcutta, etc.; also ladies for East Africa, Palestine and Japan. And that, especially, those who have means of their own may be led to come forward and go forth at their own charges.

Let us ask, with the simplicity of children, that if it be our Father's will—and we desire nothing that is contrary to that—these needs may be graciously supplied.