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and the edification of souls ; if this be our aim, no labour expended upon it will be in vain. Much has been done in recent times to enrich our hymnals and to improve our singing. It lies with those who control our Church services to see that the stores thus collected are wisely dispensed, and to use that thought and discretion which so important a branch of our public worship would seem to demand.



### Literary Notes.

THE Rev. W. O. E. Oesterley, D.D., of Jesus College, Cambridge, is having published through Mr. Murray an important work entitled "The Doctrine of the Last Things," in which he will discuss the great problem of eschatology which is just now exercising the minds of students of the Synoptic Gospels. The history of the beliefs concerning the "Last Things" goes back a long time before the advent of Christ, and many of the leading eschatological ideas had become stereotyped long before they appeared in the Gospels. It is proposed, therefore, as an important question for the proper understanding of Gospel eschatology, to inquire how far the latter is based upon antecedent teaching, and in what respects it presents an advance upon this. Dr. Oesterley fixes upon the main elements of eschatological beliefs, and traces their history, as succinctly as possible, through the Old Testament, the Apocalyptic Literature, and the later Jewish Literature.



There is in active preparation "Some Aspects of Rabbinic Theology," by Dr. Solomon Schechter, who is President of the Jewish Theological Seminary in America. The author will give us a series of essays expounding the ideas of the Rabbis as to the relation of God with man, as to the good and evil Yezer that is in every man, and as to the doctrine of repentance. He does not sum up or condense the conclusions to be drawn from the Rabbinical sayings here set forth, but arranges them in orderly sequence and connects them by a running commentary. Only a man with an exhaustive knowledge of his subject, as Dr. Schechter possesses, and a wide grasp of the mass of writings bearing upon it, could hope to produce a book of any depth of conviction. The volume should undoubtedly find many readers in England.



Mr. Stock is publishing a new edition of the Rev. C. L. Marson's "The Psalms at Work," being the English Church Psalter, with notes on the use of the Psalms. This work has been rewritten and considerably enlarged, while the arrangement of the matter has been improved. No doubt this helpful book will find a renewed interest among Church folk.



Mr. Walter Johnson's book, "Folk-Memory ; or, The Continuity of British Archæology," is a very interesting book, and is the result of some consider-

able research. Mr. Johnson has devoted a large measure of time and labour to the preparation of this work, which is very scholarly and replete with information concerning the subject with which it so ably deals. An earlier book of the author's, or at least one in which he collaborated, was, "Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey." There are a number of very interesting illustrations in the new volume by Mr. Sydney Harrowing and others. The publishers are the Oxford Press.



Dr. Fraser, in a work entitled "Totemism and Exogamy," will set forth all the well-ascertained facts for totemism; and he will also indicate the most probable conclusions to which the facts seem to point. Exogamy will be discussed only in relation to totemism—that is, in so far as it is found among totemic peoples. The work will be in two volumes.



Messrs. Macmillan, who are publishing Dr. Fraser's book, are also issuing "The Person of Our Lord and Recent Thought," by the Rev. Charles Frederick Nolloth, M.A., of Oriel College, Oxford, formerly Rector of All Saints', Lewes. In the course of his preface Mr. Nolloth says: "Beginning with sources of information admitted by all reasonable schools of thought, we shall proceed to others of less widely acknowledged validity."



One of our greatest authorities of modern European history is Dr. Holland Rose. One of his most readable and valuable studies was that of "The Development of European Nations, 1870-1900," of which a new cheap issue has recently appeared. To the writer's mind this makes an interesting companion on the shelves to Lecky's "History of European Morals." Dr. Rose's book is one which every student of history should possess. Now, I notice, his "Life of William Pitt" will shortly appear. Dr. Rose has been engaged upon this book for some time, and has had the advantage of all the latest discoveries of letters and departmental documents in preparing it. It will be an important publication. There are, of course, already some excellent monographs of recent times dealing with Pitt, notably Lord Rosebery's, and Mr. W. D. Green's volume in the "Heroes of the Nation" series.



It is really astonishing how the list of weeklies and monthlies are constantly being added to. It is still further astonishing to discover that there are sufficient readers ready to come forward to purchase and support the new affairs. I often wonder whether new readers are made, or whether already burdened subscribers to older publications feel that the new thing is just what they want, and add it to a list which is increasing alarmingly. Not long since we saw the first number of the *New Quarterly*; the other day appeared the *Englishman*; now there has arrived the *English Review*; while there was also published recently yet another entitled *National Defence*. The newest, the *English Review*, should find a warm welcome. We extend our hand to all fresh serious thought in the world of journalism, when so much of it is based to-day upon the sensational element. The price of this *Review* is 2s. 6d. net, and the editors of it have invited a number of the most able or the most distinguished writers of to-day to contribute whatever of their

intimate convictions they may care to print, assuring them that their work will not be interfered with, trammelled, or mutilated in the interests of the less intelligent reader. It is a bold idea, and must prove its justification. But we wish it success.



The Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D., is having published through Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton a new series, entitled "Devotional Hours with the Bible." It is not a commentary in the usual sense. It gives no textual criticisms or exegesis; its aim is to suggest some of the spiritual and practical lessons which may be gathered from great passages. The first volume is called "From the Creation to the Crossing of the Red Sea."



The same firm is publishing "The Reformation in Scotland: Its Causes, Characteristics, and Consequences," by D. Hay Fleming, LL.D., being the Stone Lectures for 1907-1908. These lectures were delivered in Princeton Theological Seminary, and have been considerably enlarged. In these lectures the Reformation is traced from its early beginnings down through the Lollards to the period of Patrick Hamilton.



Mr. Garrett Horder's new book is called "The Other World," and will contain thirteen sermons, the purpose of which, in the author's words, "is to clear away unreal ideas as to the nature of the other world, and to establish ethically tenable ones in their place."



Volume IV. may be expected shortly of "Contemporary France," by Gabriel Hanotaux, covering the period from 1877 to 1900. This is a monumental work, and it is completed with this new volume. The period of M. Hanotaux's study commenced with 1870.



An interesting volume of reminiscences—of the making of which there seems to be no end—should be "Studies and Memories," by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, who is not only a delightful lecturer and an able conductor, but is, at the same time, one of the very few conspicuous composers of the twentieth century, whose work will live long. There is an important chapter in this book on "The Music of the Nineteenth Century."



Mr. Murray is publishing a third volume of Westminster Abbey Lectures by Canon Beeching, entitled "The Bible Doctrine of the Sacraments."



The trustees of the British Museum have issued a new guide to the Egyptian collections.



On the 10th inst. will be published "The Life of Sir Isaac Pitman," by Alfred Baker. The book should make inspiring reading.



Mr. Unwin issued the other day an important work, entitled "New Light on Ancient Egypt," by Professor Maspero, the distinguished Egyptologist.

M. C.

## GIFT-BOOKS.

**THE BAGANDA AT HOME.** By C. W. Hattersley. London: *The Religious Tract Society.* Price 5s. net.

Everything connected with Uganda has a deep interest for us all. The story of the Mission is one of the most striking and fascinating in the annals of missionary work, and certainly no Mission of recent years has taken so firm a hold on the imagination and sympathies of Christian people. The present volume is by a well-known C.M.S. missionary, and is intended to give a picture of the people of Uganda as they are to-day. The opening chapter starts with a sketch of the history from the time of Stanley's visit in 1875, and then the recent changes in King, Court, rule, and administration are pointed out. The different parts played by the Government and the Mission are well stated. "But for the Government there would be no Uganda, and but for the Mission there would have been no British rule." Then come interesting accounts of "The Land and its Products," and "How the People Live." A chapter deals with the sad and terrible problem of "The Sleeping Sickness and its Victims," while a chatty account deals with "Travel-Talk," discussing the various routes and methods of travelling from the early days until the present comparative comfort and speed of the railway journey from Mombasa. A valuable account of the educational work of the Mission is given, and this is followed by a chapter on "Religion in Uganda," with its striking account of what has been done during the last seventeen years. A picture of Roman Catholic missionary methods is not at all inviting, and shows the real difficulties faced by the C.M.S. workers. A closing chapter discusses the work yet to be done, and points out that it is a great mistake to think that Uganda can be described as a Christian country. "There remaineth much land to be possessed." Photographs to the number of one hundred add to the interest of this volume, which will make an admirable gift-book and prove equally valuable for students of missions. It is well written, intensely interesting, and ought to have a large circulation. With all these photographs, and over two hundred pages of letterpress, the volume has been produced very cheaply and in an attractive style.

**HEROINES OF MISSIONARY ADVENTURE.** By Rev. Canon Dawson. London: *Seeley and Co.* Price 5s.

An inspiring and well-written book, giving snapshots of great women missionaries and their work. Canon Dawson tells us exactly as much as is necessary, and no more. Thrilling adventure, sublime heroism, absolute devotion to God and His work in heathen lands, mark every page. It is impossible to read of Mrs. Duff, Mrs. Robert Clark, A.L.O.E., Miss Petrie, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. McDougall, etc., and their magnificent Christianity without being moved to the depths. Twenty-nine chapters—true, thrilling, and inspiring—chain our attention from first to last. We warmly welcome and commend the book. There are twenty-four capital illustrations.

**ADVENTURES ON THE HIGH SEAS.** By Richard Stead. London: *Seeley and Co.* Price 5s.

Twenty-eight true stories of pluck, energy, endurance, and sometimes of disaster, well told and well illustrated by sixteen illustrations. They are tales of storm and shipwreck, of dangers experienced through ship fires, fogs, ice, and monsoons. The heroism of merchantmen, lifeboat-men, men of war, explorers, find full appreciation here. We strongly feel that such a book of facts as this is just the book for the age. It makes us proud of our great ancestors, and ought to urge us to great deeds. An age of soft pillows and feather beds needs such reading to awaken the slumbering spirit of disinterestedness. Let the boys have every opportunity of reading it!

**ASTRONOMY OF TO-DAY.** By C. G. Dolmage. London: *Seeley and Co.* Price 5s.

We appreciate Kant's well-known words about the heavens. The feeling of awe must always stay. Dr. Dolmage puts us in debt by his popular, deeply interesting, and thoroughly up-to-date contribution. His object is to interest and instruct the "man in the street" by extracting the main facts and theories from mathematical forms and clothing them in language intelligible to the ordinary person. He has succeeded admirably. Nothing escapes him. He tells us of measurements, of the suns, planets, asteroids, comets, eclipses, etc., and he does it within the compass of 349 clearly printed pages. The last two chapters, entitled "The Beginning and the End of Things," are interesting. The Christian view of the "end" comes as a great relief to some scientific theories. The illustrations are splendid.