

the general total is concerned. If my counting is correct, the sectional totals are:

	Ginsburg.	Concordance.
Samuel	577	576
Kings	96	96
Isaiah	10	10
Jeremiah	15	15
Ezekiel	4	4
Psalms	88	88
Proverbs	1	1
Megilloth	4	4
The XII. and Ezr.-Neh.-Ch.	281	282
	<u>1076</u>	<u>1076</u>

The great preponderance of the *scriptio defectiva* in the earlier books is somewhat interesting in view of the other two words (one certainly connected: are both? See *Oxford Lexicon's* reference

to Gesenius and Dietrich) written with the same letters  $\eta\eta$ , and *both of them monosyllables*. Cf. G. B. Gray, *Studies in Hebrew Proper Names*, s.v. Doubtless the *scriptio plena* with *yôdh*, apart from other considerations, would establish the traditional dissyllabic form. But one would like to know what the pronunciation of the name was exactly in, say, the eleventh century before Christ.

In this connexion it may perhaps be permissible to recall the pet name given to David Copperfield by his child wife. She called him 'Doody.' It has often seemed to me that if Dickens was not a Hebraist this was one of the most felicitous of his unstudied touches. He wrote for all the world as if he had remembered the Hebrew endearments in Canticles, where, of course, *Dôdô* occurs repeatedly. H. F. B. COMPSTON.

*King's College, London.*

## Entre Nous.

### Offer of Prizes.

Eight prizes are offered as follows:—

For the best anecdote illustrating any text of Scripture—

1. From Biography.
2. From History.
3. From Personal Experience.

For the best illustration, not an anecdote, of any text of Scripture—

4. From Nature or Science.
5. From Art or Industry.
6. From Human Life.
7. From Literature.

8. For the best illustration in verse of any text of Scripture.

In every case the source of the illustration must be stated fully (author, vol., page) and the quotation must be made exactly.

These eight prizes will be awarded in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES for March 1911 for illustrations received by the 1st of January.

Another award will be made of eight prizes in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES for June 1911 for illustrations received before the 1st of April.

The prizes offered are—

Any volume of the *Encyclopædia of Religion and*

*Ethics*, together with the right to purchase the rest of the volumes at a quarter less than the published price, namely, 21s. instead of 28s. net.

Or—

Any four volumes of the *Great Texts of the Bible*.

Or—

Either volume of the *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels*.

Or—

The single-volume *Dictionary of the Bible*.

Or—

Any four volumes of the 'Scholar as Preacher.'

Or—

Any two volumes of the 'International Theological Library or of the International Critical Commentary.

Those who send illustrations should say which offer they prefer if successful. Those who send more than one illustration should name more than one volume or set of volumes in case they should be awarded more than one prize.

### Some Christmas Books.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has published five gift books this Christmas, and they are all books for boys. It cannot be that

girls have ceased to read. It must be that they prefer to read the boys' books.

The largest of the S.P.C.K. books is *For Rupert and the King* (3s. 6d.); the author is Mr. Herbert Hayens. It carries us back to the seventeenth century and the Civil War. There is a young hero, and he is quite heroic; but the real hero is Prince Rupert. Is a novelist bound to give a true reflexion of events that are historical, or is he entitled still to take a side? Mr. Hayens does not seem to have asked the question, he has simply taken the side.

*Ocean Chums* (2s. 6d.), by W. C. Metcalfe, is not quite so long—we might almost say, not quite so long-winded. At any rate it is modern and the language is modern. And that is a distinct advantage. For, however difficult it is for a novelist to write in antiquated English, it is very trying for the reader to have to read it. This is modern life and modern language. And although it is the modern language they use at sea there is nothing objectionable in it.

*Jenkyn Clyffe, Bedesman* (2s. 6d.), by Gertrude Hollis, carries us back into ancient history again. But it carries us right into the Middle Ages, and there is no attempt made to speak the language as it was spoken then. It carries us to the days of the bow and arrow and the battle-axe, to the days when bishops rode on horseback at the head of armies, and were more pleased with the heads they struck off than with the hearts they converted. The enemies are the English and the French. It may still be possible for boys to be very patriotic and wish the English well, even although they are fighting on French soil and have little business to be there.

A smaller book is *Brothers Five* (2s.), by Violet T. Kirke. Again the interest is warlike. But the scene is new. The hero is William of Orange. At least he is the historical hero. The heroes of the fiction are five Dutch brothers; and heroes they are, clear headed, large hearted, manly fellows.

The smallest of the five books is a tale of British Honduras by B. Marchant. Its title is *The Deputy Boss* (1s. 6d.). There is no war or battle here; yet it is the most thrilling story of the five.

Should magazines grow up as boys and girls do? It strikes us that *The Prize* (Wells Gardner; 2s.) is a year taller than in 1909, as well as a year

older. *Chatterbox* (3s.) is certainly growing. It looks good enough for the oldest boy at school now. We cannot say for the oldest girl, for more reasons than one. But one good reason is that the stories are nearly all boys' stories, the games nearly all boys' games, and the pictures nearly all boys' portraits. And all that is no doubt in accordance with the omnipotent law of evolution. Girls read boys' magazines and boys read their own, and editors have discovered that a magazine that has most to do with boys has the largest circulation.

One of the most handsome of this season's books for children is an edition of Kingsley's *Water-Babies*, issued by Messrs. Jack (6s. net). It is a fine generous quarto, printed in the best Edinburgh style, and it contains eight coloured illustrations by Katharine Cameron. The artist has read the book, which is more than all the artists do who take books in hand to illustrate. She has more than read it; she has absorbed the spirit of it.

In the choice of a gift book, careful parents prefer one that contains a little information. But being a gift book and not a lesson book, the information must be insinuated rather than inserted. And to that end attractive illustrations are necessary. Such a book is *The Earth and its Story*, by Arthur R. Dwerryhouse, D.Sc., F.G.S. (Kelly; 5s. net). It contains five coloured plates and a hundred and sixteen other illustrations from photographs and drawings.

*A Girl against Odds* (Kelly; 3s. 6d.) has adventure enough to satisfy the girls that read boys' books. And yet it is unmistakably a girls' book, and thoroughly wholesome.

There may be few girls' books. But even one, when it is a book by Mrs. Molesworth, rescues a Christmas from failure. Its title is *The Story of a Year* (Macmillan; 3s. 6d.). It is the story of progress, of progress by steady growth, not by scenes and convulsions. The illustrations are quiet and simple, with the simplicity of an earlier generation.

At the Sunday School Union Margery Haining Briggs has published fifty-two 'Primary Talks' on

things in Nature, calling her book *A Child's Year with Nature* (3s. 6d. net). The book is full of illustrations, which are there for the sake of illustrating the book, not simply of being looked at.

A new complete beautifully printed and charmingly illustrated edition of Mrs. Gatty's *Parables from Nature* (Bell & Sons; 5s. net) is as welcome a gift as this Christmas season is likely to send us.

Mr. Henry Frowde and Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton go together in the publishing of Christmas books, making a strong combination. And they have excelled themselves this Christmas.

First there is a clever book of *Little Plays for Little People* (2s. 6d. net), pictured by Millicent Sowerby, written by Githa Sowerby. It is rollicking fun from beginning to end.

Next there is *Rough and Tumble* (6s. net), by Cecil Aldin. It is the story of two dogs, and how one always did the mischief and always got off, and the other did neither. The moral seems to be, that if you are going to be punished you should deserve it. Or is there anything in the colour? The dog that did the mischief was black, while the dog that suffered for it was white. Better begin black then, with a possibility of becoming white, than begin white, with a certainty of being called black. But we are mixing up the morals almost as much as the dogs were mixed up.

Then there are four big, bulky, olive-edged volumes, three for the boys and one for the girls—the usual proportion. The book for the girls is *Sylvia's Victory* (3s. 6d.), by E. L. Haverfield. It is a well-told story with plenty of incident and well-managed conversation. And the illustrations in colour are very charming.

Herbert Strang has written two of the boys' books. One of the two is an imaginary journey *Round the World in Seven Days* (3s. 6d.). The voyage is made in an aeroplane of course. And equally of course the book will be all the rage this year, first at home in the holidays, and next, it is to be feared, at school when the holidays are over.

*The Adventures of Dick Trevanion* (6s.), a story of 1804, sounds more commonplace, but the adventures were anything but commonplace. Is it better to retain the interest by raising a mystery that is unexplained till the end, or to batter the

reader with a series of exciting shocks? Mr. Strang uses the method of separate shocks here.

The remaining volume of the four is a tale of the Peninsular War. Its title is *The Spy* (6s.). The author is Captain Charles Gilson. Captain Gilson likes to work with history in his right hand; and although he keeps a little fiction in his left, he does not mind if his right hand knows what his left hand is doing. The description of the storming of Badajoz is both thrilling and true.

Last of all, and largest of all, Herbert Strang's *Annual* (3s. 6d.), with its mixture, judicious or injudicious, of the comic and the serious, the wild adventure abroad and the quiet study of science at home. Its stories cover the whole field of storytelling for the schoolroom, the inevitable aeroplane story being among them.

This is the age of specialists. No publisher of boys' and girls' books realizes this more clearly than Messrs. Blackie—the publishers, *par excellence*, of boys' books of adventure. For the coming Christmas they have issued six volumes. The first is *On Foreign Service* (6s.), by T. T. Jeans. It is a stirring naval tale, and concerns a revolution in the Republic of Santa Cruz. Mr. Jeans is himself Staff-Surgeon in the Navy, and the adventures in the story are based on experiences of his own. But not content with his own knowledge, he has had the manuscript read by several officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. In this story, then, we have something very different from the old tale of adventure with its impossible situations. Very amusing are the rivalries between the 'Mids' of the two cruisers the *Hector* and the *Hercules*. Their contempt for each other resembles that of the black washer-woman for her kind. 'Mistah Officah, I vash your clo's—I good vasher-lady, let me aboard—all de rest only black trash.'

Messrs. Blackie realize not only that their authors must be specialists, but also that their books must be topical—that they must deal with the latest invention. *The Great Aeroplane* (6s.) is even in advance of invention. The author, Captain F. S. Brereton, has endeavoured to draw a picture of the perfect flying vessel, but his name is a guarantee that we have here no wild impossibilities, but that all is on a sound scientific basis.

No list of Christmas books would be complete without a tale of treasure lost and found, by Alex-

ander Macdonald, F.R.G.S. His title for Christmas 1910 is *The Invisible Island* (5s.), a story of the Far North of Queensland.

*Two Dover Boys* (2s. 6d.), by Gerfrude Hollis, and *Hawkwood the Brave* (3s. 6d.), by William Beck, are historical tales—that most difficult form of writing to make interesting. Mr. Beck's name is new to us, but we expect to hear more of him.

*Finn and his Warrior Band* (2s. 6d.) will appeal to all lovers of fairy tales, but it is more than a fairy tale. Mr. D. A. Mackenzie has gathered together the old tales of Finn which have been the delight of the bards and story-tellers in the Highlands for centuries, and has retold them for young people in the hope that 'they may be attracted by the heroic qualities of Finn, and that, like him, they may overcome the giants of the world, and, unlike him, never forget them, once they are mastered.'

The Christmas books attributed last month to Mr. Melrose are published by the Sunday School Union.

#### Consider the Lilies.

The spiritual originality of some of Christ's utterances is too often held a sufficient reason for denying that He uttered them. That is as absurd as it would be to deny that He uttered the eulogy on the beauty of the lilies of the field and on their superiority to the raiment of Solomon. Few modern readers probably have the least glimmering of the fact that this saying is marvellously original. Learned men have alleged no parallel to it in the history of human thought till the time of Claudian, who probably wrote under Christian influence. If Jesus was original in His insight into the divine beauty of the flowers of the field, is it not likely that He would be original in His insight into the divine potentialities of men and women?

EDWIN A. ABBOTT.

#### The Great Text Commentary.

The best illustration this month has been found by the Rev. F. G. Newton, Park Hill, Ontario, to

whom a copy of Durell's *Self-Revelation of our Lord* will be sent.

Illustrations for the Great Text for January must be received by the 1st of December. The text is Ps 113.

The Great Text for February is Ps 141:

'The fool hath said in his heart,  
There is no God.'

A copy of any volume of the 'International Theological Library,' or of the 'International Critical Commentary,' will be given for the best illustration.

The Great Text for March is Ps 1611:

'Thou wilt shew me the path of life:  
In thy presence is fulness of joy;  
In thy right hand there are pleasures for  
evermore.'

A copy of any volume of the 'Scholar as Preacher' series will be given for the best illustration.

The Great Text for April is Ps 231:

'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.'

A copy of the new edition of Walker's *The Cross and the Kingdom*, or Canon Cooke's *Progress of Revelation*, or Macgregor's *Some of God's Ministries*, will be given for the best illustration.

The Great Text for May is Ps 377:

'Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.'

A copy of Canon Cooke's *Progress of Revelation*, or of Dr. Richard's *New Testament of Higher Buddhism*, or of Dr. Homes Dudden's *Christ and Christ's Religion*, will be given for the best illustration.

Those who send illustrations should at the same time name the books they wish sent them if successful. Illustrations to be sent to the Editor, St. Cyrus, Montrose, Scotland.

Printed by MORRISON & GIBB LIMITED, Tanfield Works, and Published by T. & T. CLARK, 38 George Street, Edinburgh. It is requested that all literary communications be addressed to THE EDITOR, St. Cyrus, Montrose, Scotland.