

THE BOOK PAGE

The Pre-Assembly Congress is to be distinguished by the appearance of two new books bearing very closely upon the work of our church. We have been favored with a glance at advance sheets and can promise admirable things to the readers of **Twenty-Five Years in Honan**, by Rev. Murdoch MacKenzie, D.D. (Board of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50c. cloth, 35c. paper), and **Rural Life in Canada**, by John MacDougall, B.A. (published by the Westminster Company, Toronto, for the Board of Social Service and Evangelism, 300 pages, \$1.00). Dr. MacKenzie writes from largest and first-hand knowledge. He was among the earliest of our men in the Honan work, went through the experiences of the Boxer troubles, and has evidently made a deep study of things Chinese far beyond the local requirements of the mission in Honan. His chapters on Honan Province and People, and Religion in Honan, are strong and lucid, and the story of the pioneering and seed sowing, and of the subsequent trials and triumphs of the mission is told in a clear, straightforward and illuminating way. Honan is our church's most largely manned mission. This year is its semi-jubilee. Dr. MacKenzie's book will give new interest to the work in the eyes of the church, and will help to prepare the church for still larger things in China and in its other mission fields. Mr. MacDougall has made a special study of the conditions of rural life in Canada. The present volume contains the results of that study from economic, ethical and religious standpoints. It is a well-informed, sober and detailed setting out of these, and brings good citizens and good churchmen face to face with the serious problems which have arisen through changed social conditions in rural communities. The time has gone by when the church can regard her duty, if ever she did so regard it, as chiefly to prepare people for a better world to come. She must help them to make the present world a better world to live in. This is the standpoint of Mr. MacDougall's book, the reader of which will find in it much that is new and suggestive.

No more important theological book has appeared in this generation than **The Rule of Faith**, by Rev. W. P. Paterson, D.D., Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh (Hodder & Stoughton, London, U.C. Tract Society, Toronto, 439 pages, \$1.50). This volume contains the Baird Lectures for 1905 "enlarged and emended." The author, in his preface, describes it as a study in the Prolegomena to Dogmatics and the appearance of his notable book has been hailed as signaling the opening of a new era of reconstruction in Systematic Theology. For such reconstruction the way is here prepared by a thoroughgoing examination of first, "the seat of doctrine," and secondly, "the substance of doctrine." Under the first heading the various theories held regarding the foundation on which theology must be based are subjected to a searching scrutiny, while, under the second, the attempt is made to determine the doctrines which are essential to Christianity. This is one of the books which no serious student of theology can afford to be without. From the same British and Canadian publishers come two notable biographies. One is **The Life of Archi-**

bald Hamilton Charteris, D.D., LL.D., by Rev. the Hon. Arthur Gordon, M.A. (510 pages, \$2.50 net). From 1868 to 1898 Professor of Biblical Criticism and Biblical Antiquities in the University of Edinburgh, and in 1892 the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Dr. Charteris took a large part in the work of his church. Of special interest are his activities on behalf of church union in Scotland, foreign missions, the Young Men's Guild and women's work. The other is, **Life and Letters of the Reverend James MacGregor, D.D., Minister of St. Cuthbert's Parish, Edinburgh**, by the Lady Frances Balfour (532 pages, \$3.50). For forty years closing with 1910, the subject of this biography was known as Dr. MacGregor of St. Cuthbert's. He was a famous preacher, and he was a man with a big human heart. His letters tell the story of his wanderings in many lands. Of special interest are those written from Canada, which he visited in 1881, while the Marquis of Lorne, now the Duke of Argyll, was Governor-General. With the vice-regal party, he went as far west as Calgary, and gives a most entertaining account of his experiences. As the reflection of a rich and genial personality this book will abundantly repay its readers.

The Maiden Manifest, by Della Campbell MacLeod (McClelland & Goodchild, Toronto, 356 pages, \$1.30 net), is a somewhat fantastic, but gay-hearted, story of a young Southern born Colorado mine-owner who falls in love with the charm and daintiness of a girl's gown in a New York cleaner's shop window. It is not until the last chapter that he succeeds in discovering the gown's owner, in the person of the very charming Southern maiden to whom he has already lost his heart. From the same publishers come also **Canada and Sea Power**, by Christopher West (172 pages, \$1.00 net), a well written and interesting discussion of questions connected with the development of naval armaments and Canada's responsibility for the defence of the empire from attacks by sea; and **The New Hostess of To-day**, by Linda Hall Larned (428 pages, \$1.50 net), a sequel to *The Hostess of To-day*, written "to assist the housekeeper and hostess in selecting and serving a menu suitable for an elaborate repast or a simple meal."

The Constructive Quarterly, the second number of which is just due, has struck upon the psychological moment. It offers itself as a forum where persons of differing communions "may introduce themselves to one another through the things that they themselves positively hold to be vital to Christianity." The publishers are The Geo. H. Doran Company, New York and Henry Frowde, London. The yearly subscription is \$2.50, single number 75c.; and the editor, Silas McBee, who is known the world over as an ambassador amongst the churches for better understanding and closer cooperation. The contributors to the first number are all eminent men and include, in addition to Protestant writers, Roman Catholics and an Archbishop of the Holy Orthodox Russian Church. Each writer is given absolute freedom, but polemic animus is excluded; everything must be stated constructively. The new Quarterly has already been hailed with strong satisfaction, and is bound to fill a large place.