

Book Notices.

"The Hymn-Book of the Modern Church." Brief Studies of Hymns and Hymn-Writers. The Thirty-fourth Fernley Lecture. By Arthur E. Gregory, D.D. London: Charles H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. ix-350.

The study of hymns, ancient and modern, is one of fascinating interest. The issue of a new Wesleyan hymn-book is made the occasion for this admirable Fernley Lecture. It treats in a learned and luminous manner the great hymns of the ages. It is remarkable how every religious revival is accompanied by a fresh outburst of song. On the wings of holy hymns the doctrines of the Reformation, of the Wesleyan revival, of the Moody and Sankey crusade, flew abroad. It is wonderful to note the catholicity of the hymnodies of all the Churches. Catholic and Protestant, Anglican and Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian, Trinitarian and Unitarian, unite in the song of praise. The study of these soul breathings of the devoutest minds in all the Churches encourages a hope of the reunion of hearts in the Church of the living God. "rent as it now is by many unhappy divisions." "In our most solemn moments of life," says Dr. Gregory, "we draw nigh to God with the same words. Our morning and our evening hymns, our Christmas carols, and our Easter anthems are one, our battle songs, our penitential prayers, our hymns of adoration, are the same. Even more impressive is the fact that in the Holy Communion the same hymns are sung in the great cathedral where men kneel before the high altar and in the homely village chapel where simple folk sit down at the Lord's table. In the service of love, in the prayer of penitence, and in the sacrifice of praise, we are already one in Christ Jesus."

This is a book of broad sympathies, of warm-souled eloquence, of profound and fascinating interest.

"Readings from Modern Mexican Authors." By Frederick Starr. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. vii-420.

Mexico is decidedly the foremost of the Spanish-American countries in its

political, economic, social and literary development. Under the wise administration of President Diaz, it is fast taking advanced place among the well-governed countries of the world. One of the most striking illustrations of its intellectual development is the virile and vital native literature which it is producing. It will be a surprise to many readers to know the quantity and quality of this literature. The writer of this book has made it a sympathetic study, and presents the result in over four hundred pages of translations from living or recent Mexican authors. They embrace chapters in history, biography, public polity, drama, narrative and fiction. They are thoroughly Mexican in topic and in colour, and form a series of "Mexican pictures painted by Mexican hands." A portrait and life sketch of each author is presented, and a strong idiomatic translation of his work.

"Old Truths Newly Illustrated." By Henry Graham, D.D. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xv-229. Price, \$1.00.

In this book the author gleans from the ministry of over thirty years some three hundred illustrations which have been found helpful in applying divine truth to many minds. If in our sermonizing we would follow more closely the example of the great Teacher and Preacher, who without a parable spake not unto the people, we would more readily win the ear and heart of our hearers.

"A Ladder of Swords." By Gilbert Parker. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company. Pp. 291. Illustrated.

A new historical tale by Sir Gilbert Parker is a literary event. He has forsaken for the time his native Canada, the land of Pierre and his people, for the romantic island of Jersey. He gives a vivid picture of the spacious times of good Queen Bess. A French Huguenot refugee and the lady whom he loves have fled from the cruel court of Catharine Medici to the Channel Island which still asserts a semi-independence of Great Britain. By Jesuitical plot he is haled to the court, but his manly beauty and sturdy Protestant-