

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

The Lancasters and their Friends. By S. J. F. (London: Stock.) A book worthy of the highest commendation. S. J. F. writes especially for "the young ladies of Methodism," and the advantages of the time-honoured institutions of John Wesley are fully exemplified, while the breadth of sentiment shown, and loving counsel given, reflect infinite credit on the authoress and are applicable to Christian hearts everywhere. This is essentially a home at my, and narrates in the pleasant manner the youthful joys and troubles, the more matured trials sanctified by trust in God, the sunshine that cometh after a shower; and a fair proportion of happy marriages of the various members of the family of "The Lancasters."

The Snowdrops; or, Life from the Dead. (London: S. W. Partridge and Co.) This tiny book merits the warmest praise. It is written for children, and in a winning manner the author narrates the sweet peace that a true and full reliance on the love of God will bring to those who possess it. The great charm of the book is the artless manner in which the story of the snowdrop, from its planting in the ground to the final springing up of the flower, typifying the gradual development of a holy life upon this sin-trodden earth, into the glorious future "for ever with the Lord," is alternated, chapter by chapter, with the incidents of the life of the young girl who is the heroine of the brief story. We have read many children's books, but never since our childhood do we remember to have seen one which has so thoroughly taken hold of our heart as this has done. We would recommend it most heartily to parents, and Sunday-school teachers, and all others who have the spiritual welfare of children in their care.

Our Vain to Home, with Notes by the Way. By the Rev. John Rhodes. (London: Wesleyan Conference Office.) Mr. Rhodes is undoubtedly an intelligent traveller, and has given us a very interesting narration of his tour, written in a pleasant, chaty style, rendering the usually dull journal of a tourist most enjoyable.

The Weekly Welcome (Partridge. 6d. monthly) is again before us, and shows no retrogression from the high position to which it has already attained.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

WE have determined to devote a space on this page monthly to a brief digest of current religious events, which will, we think, be interesting to our readers for reference. We should premise that, as we print very early, our information will only date up to the fifteenth of each month.

A new church, costing £10,000, and dedicated to St. Matthew, has been consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester at Bolton. It will accommodate about 1000 persons, one-half of the seats being free.

A neat and commodious sanctuary (Methodist Free Church) has been opened at Chorley. The Rev. J. Guttridge preached the opening sermon, and the sum of £220 has been contributed towards the cost of the building.

The present building in which the Congregationalists of Chertsey worship—the date of its erection being 1710—is too small for their requirements, and a new church, to seat 500 persons, is now in progress. The cost is estimated at £3000.

A handsome new Congregational church has been opened at Weston-super-mare, at a cost of £7000.

The Wesleyan chapel at Stourport, built in 1773, and originally occupied by an Independent congregation, has been renovated and beautified. Schools and classrooms have been added, the organ has been improved, and a new heating apparatus has been introduced, the total cost being £1000, which will be paid without increasing the chapel debt.

At Idley, in Yorkshire, a handsome and commodious Baptist chapel has been opened at a cost of £1400. Accommodation is provided for 650 worshippers.

The Northgate-street chapel, Gloucester, venerable in years, and hallowed in its associations—John Wesley having preached there—is to give place to a more convenient and handsome structure, the cost of which will be over £5000. The work will be commenced as soon as the subscription list reaches £3000.

At the recent quarterly communion in the United Presbyterian Church, Uddingston, unfurnished wine was provided for those members who preferred it, and who sat apart from the rest of the congregation.

A commodious Wesleyan chapel has been erected on a site adjacent to Woodhouse Moor, Leeds. The opening sermons were preached by the Rev. J. H. James, D.D., and D. and D. Fraser, D.D., the collections amounting to over £400. The chapel seats 1000 persons. In the basement is a schoolroom, capable of seating 700. The cost, including the various offices, minister's house, etc., is £11,000.

A site for the erection of a Methodist Free Church mission chapel, at Shepherd's bush, has been secured at a cost of nearly £700.

The Bible Christian congregation at Woolwich, having cleared their chapel debt, contemplate the erection of a new and more convenient place of worship.

The labours of the Rev. T. J. Bass, in the Sheffield North Circuit of the Methodist New Connexion, have been blessed with much success. Many have decided to be on the Lord's side, and have found peace in Christ.

Successful efforts are being made in the Carlisle diocese to procure candidates for holy orders, by aiding in the education of promising boys, assisting young men to obtain University degrees, and helping them in their more immediate and direct preparation for ordination.

The Wesleyans of Blackburn report an increase of twenty-two members on the quarter, with twenty-nine on trial. The membership now numbers 1354. Arrangements have been made for revival mission services.

The foundation-stones of a new Wesleyan Chapel have been laid at Northampton, on the site of the Grafton street Centenary Chapel. The building will accommodate 800 persons. The total cost will be £4500, of which nearly £3000 has been subscribed.

New Congregational churches are being erected at Congleton, and at Park Green, Macclesfield.

The efforts of Mr. Sparks, "the Post-builder preacher," have been blessed with much success in West Cowes, where a Baptist Chapel is being erected on one of the best sites in the town. The building will cost £1400.

The foundation-stone of the Candlish Memorial Free Church has been laid in Cathcart road Glasgow, by the Rev. Dr. Dykes, of London, formerly assistant to Dr. Candlish.

Very favourable reports have been given at many of the recent quarterly meetings of the Primitive Methodists, especially those of Barton-on-Humber, Belper, and Cambridge. At Willenhall, Staffordshire and at Blotton, Gwent, the foundation-stones of new schools have been laid.

At Aulishaw, in the A-hlon Circuit a new Methodist (New Connexion) Chapel is being built in the old chapel (in which John Wesley preached) being too small for the conveniently situated.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wigton have recently held a series of evangelistic services at Darby End Methodist New Connexion Chapel, which have been blessed with much success, 120 persons having professed to find peace through Christ.

The Rev. W. Hay M. H. Aitken has been employed by the Lord to the blessing of many souls at Cheltenham. Hundreds have remained behind at the after-meetings at St. Paul's Church. The whole town is said to have been shaken, all classes having come under the influence of the work.

A beautiful chapel has been erected by the Bible Christians of Barnstaple. The building is in memory of James Thorne, of Shebbear, who, for more than fifty-six years, successfully employed his gift in the spread of religion and the establishment of the Bible Christian denomination. During the last year 236 members were added to this body.

A good work is reported at Reading. The Rev. S. H. Goold, vicar of Greyfriars Church in that town, assisted by his curates the Revs. J. Fox and S. L. Dixon, and others, have held open-air services, and have proclaimed the message of salvation freely through Christ. Many have gladly accepted the offer. In consequence of this work an iron rostrum has been opened to seat 400 people, and it is intended to continue the enterprise. Many hymns are employed, and great simplicity prevails in the order and conduct of the services.

A Mission Hall and "British Workman" is in course of erection Chowbey, a place notorious for vice and disregard alike of religion and morality.

At a meeting of temperance workers and friends at Spitfields Wesleyan Chapel, the Rev. G. Currock expressed his joy at the large numbers in the church and congregation who were total abstainers. A resolution was passed that a Wesleyan Temperance Society should be inaugurated at once, under the presidency of Mr. Currock.

The Evangelical Alliance has held its conference at Southport. The various branches of Evangelical Protestants were well represented, and the general proceedings were of a very satisfactory nature. The Rev. Dr. Kigg moved what are known as the "practical resolutions." The report was then read, showing a gratifying increase of members and the formation of new centres. During the session addresses were delivered and papers were read on "The Power of the Evangelical Alliance, and how best to use it for local purposes," "The Present state of Europe in relation to the spread of the Gospel," "The State of Papal Europe," "The Gospel among the European Jews," etc. The conference closed with a public breakfast, which was given by the mayor.

The Church Congress has held its sittings at Plymouth, under the presidency of Dr. Temple, Bishop of Exeter. The following were among the subjects discussed:—"The Old Catholic Movement," "The Extension of the Episcopate," "Parochial Temperance Societies," "The Cause and Influence of Unbelief," "Central African Mission Work," "The Increase and Training of Ministers," "The Spiritual Life," "The Relations between Church and State," etc. The next meeting of the Congress will be at Croydon.

The Congregational Union has held its thirty-seventh autumnal session at Bradford. The address of the chairman, Dr. Aveling, assumed the character of a sequel to that delivered by him in May, the title of which was "Within the Fold." His present subject was "Without the Fold," and bore reference to the relationship of the Congregational with other churches, their part in the evangelistic and philanthropic movements of the day, their attitude in the discussion of political and social questions, etc., etc. Amongst the resolutions was one moved by Dr. Aveling, which received the cordial support, and the unanimous vote of the Assembly, the substance of which was the appointment of a special committee to consider in what way the Union can most efficiently aid in promoting a true temperance reformation.

The Baptist Union has held its meetings at Birmingham, under the chairmanship of Dr. Laide, whose address on the aggressive character of the Baptist churches has excited considerable attention. A deputation of ministers of various denominations welcomed the Union to Birmingham. Various papers were read and discussed, great unanimity prevailing. Public and social meetings were held, at which the Revs. A. Murrell, R. W. Dale, C. H. Spurgeon, Hugh Stowell Brown, Dr. Landels, and other prominent men spoke, the Mayor, at the close of the session, entertaining a number of guests at the Queen's Hotel. The meetings have been considered the most successful of any in the history of the Union.

NEGLECTING CHURCH.

A SECULAR paper reads the following to persons who, for slight and insufficient causes, absent themselves from church:—"Living all about us are men in good health and good circumstances who never darken the door of a sanctuary of any kind from one year's end to another. Some of these are professing Christians who have taken some mole-hill that their selfishness has magnified to a mountain, and they sulk at home. What will they do with their nasty excuses at the day of judgment, in which they profess to believe? Do such know that it is an insult to ministers and the community to shirk